

Kabariti visits Karak Governorate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdul Karim Kabariti on Saturday toured Karak Governorate, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Accompanying the prime minister were Minister of Education Munther Masri, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali, Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat, Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughmi, Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairah and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai. Petra did not give details. But the prime minister's visit to the governorate was expected to have focused on a review of the situation there after unrest in several areas in the south on April 16 and 17. Mr. Kabariti accompanied His Majesty King Hussein on a visit to Karak Governorate last week.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Romanian workers shot in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian assailant shot and wounded two Romanian workers in Baqa Al Sharqiyah on the West Bank on Saturday, Israeli police said. The two Romanians, one of whom was seriously wounded, were taken to an Israeli hospital at Hadera. They were attacked by a Palestinian while on business with other Romanians at Baqa Al Sharqiyah, about one kilometre from Israeli territory. The army clamped a curfew on the area and launched a search for the assailant. In another incident, four assailants stabbed and seriously wounded a priest near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's walled Old City on Saturday, police said. The attackers fled and the priest was taken to hospital, they said, without identifying the victim. Police gave no motive for the stabbing.

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Iraqi and KDP forces seize control of Erbil

Iranians said to enter northern Iraq; U.S. places its forces on full alert in the region

Saddam-Barzani alliance raises spectre of confrontation with West

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI TROOPS and tanks supporting a Kurdish rebel faction captured the city of Erbil in northern Iraq from a rival Kurdish force on Saturday and raised the Iraqi flag in the mountainous enclave protected by U.S.-led forces.

Iraq's intervention could ignite a new confrontation between Baghdad and the Western forces that have policed the Kurdish "safe haven" in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

The Iraqi troops and a Kurdish faction, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) launched an early morning assault to capture Erbil, the main Kurdish city in northern Iraq, from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a U.N. official said.

Christopher Lee, speaking from the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Baghdad, said the PUK had put up little resistance. There was an undetermined number of casualties, he said.

However, PUK leader Jalal Talabani said fighting was continuing inside Erbil as the Iraqi troops and their Kurdish allies pounded the city with artillery and missiles.

Iraqi forces occupied the main base for relief agencies in the western part of Erbil and that they have occupied the university campus in the south of the city, Mr. Talabani told CNN.

The PUK estimated that 450 Iraqi tanks were involved in the offensive, and said that some 30,000 Iraqi forces had massed in recent days in preparation for the attack.

According to the official Iraqi News Agency, Deputy Prime Minister Tarek Aziz

said the offensive was a response to an appeal by the KDP.

"We decided to launch a limited military operation in defence of our sovereignty, our people and their properties," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz said KDP leader Massoud Barzani pleaded with President Saddam Hussein in an Aug. 22 letter to intervene to "end the treachery of Jalal Talabani."

A KDP official said Iranian troops entered northern Iraq in the wake of the assault on Erbil.

"They entered this morning. They have occupied the area to the depth of 40 kilometres. They have established a headquarters in Chuman," Faik Nerweyi of the KDP told Reuters by telephone from Ankara.

Mr. Nerweyi said he did not know the size or nature of the Iranian force in northern Iraq, but said KDP fighters had been easily outgunned to the area close to the Iranian border and had quickly withdrawn further west.

"They were far too strong," he said. Mr. Nerweyi said he did not know if there were any casualties.

The KDP charges that the PUK, which took control of Erbil in fighting in December 1994, has backing from Iran. The PUK accuses the KDP of colluding with Baghdad.

"The KDP has taken complete control of Erbil, the PUK have been expelled and there is no exodus of the civilian population," said Hoshyar Zehari, who led a KDP delegation in aborted U.S.-brokered peace talks in London the previous day.

"We don't deny there has been some Iraqi shelling. It started after the Iranians sent

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan warns of possible Iranian armed incursion

'Kingdom will not interfere in Iraq or allow itself to be used as base for military action'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan fears an Iranian intervention in northern Iraq following the Iraqi army's move there to crush Kurdish dissidents seen as pro-Tehran but the Kingdom has no intention to intervene in Iraq, official sources said Saturday.

The sources also said Jordan, while keeping a close watch on the situation, will not allow its bases to be a springboard for attacks against Iraq. "It is totally out of the question," said an official source when asked whether Jordan would interfere in Iraq. "We have no intention to intervene in Iraq."

Jordan is indeed concerned that Iran might send its forces to support the Kurdish factions it supports in northern Iraq, said the official source, who did not want to be identified.

"The picture is not clear yet, but what is clear is that there is a strong possibility of Iranian intervention in support of the one of the Kurdish factions," said the source.

"We in Jordan have been warning that this might happen," added the source. The source was obviously referring to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

(PUK), which was reportedly ousted from the northern Iraqi town of Erbil in a combined operation launched by Iraqi government forces and PUK rival Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP).

Recent reports have strongly indicated the existence of an alliance between the PUK of Jalal Talabani, a frequent visitor to Tehran, and the Iranian government.

Links between the KDP of Masoud Barzani and the Baghdad government became apparent last week when the official Iraqi media carried KDP statements for the first time since the Gulf war and described Mr. Talabani as a traitor.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarek Aziz said in Baghdad on Saturday that the KDP had asked the Iraqi government to oust the PUK from Erbil.

Mr. Aziz, in a statement carried by the official Iraqi News Agency, described the intervention as a "limited" one to help the KDP against Iran-supported PUK.

An Amman-based Iraqi dissident group, the Iraqi National Accord (AI Wifaq Al Wazani Al Iraqi) meanwhile called on the Iraqi military to rebel against the regime.

"The Iraqi National

(Continued on page 7)

Sultan Qaboos on private visit, holds talks with King at Aqaba

AQABA (Agencies)

His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman held talks here on Saturday on the latest developments in the Middle East and means to boost Jordanian-Omani relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The talks took place at the Royal Palace here shortly after Sultan Qaboos arrived on a three-day private visit to Jordan.

He was received at the Aqaba International Airport by King Hussein, Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Alawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Sour, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Cabinet ministers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai, King's Adviser for Tribal Affairs General Hmeidi Al Fayez and other senior officials.

Accompanying Sultan Qaboos on his visit are the chief of the Omani royal court, Seif Ben Hamad Ben Saoud, and other senior officials.



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id with a full guard of honour at Aqaba (Petra photo)

Revived intifada is an option, Arafat tells Palestinian students

NABLUS (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Saturday Palestinians might resurrect their national uprising against Israeli occupation if peace moves failed.

"One of our options is to return to the intifada (uprising)," Mr. Arafat told high school students in the West Bank town of Nablus on the first day of the new school year.

"You remember I described you as the generals of the stones. Keep up the spirit of resistance," he said, referring to a seven-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule launched in 1987 by stone-throwing youths.

It was the second time in two days Mr. Arafat warned Israel that Palestinians had other options to peace.

Mr. Arafat called on Christian Palestinians to stage a mass prayer on Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the holiest Christian site in Jerusalem, to protest against Israeli's plans to expand Jewish settlements.

Mr. Arafat has turned up the heat on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to withdraw from Hebron in the West Bank and honour other peace deal commitments, calling strikes and protests against the Jewish state.

No negotiations on Aqaba refinery; government might invite new bids

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has suspended all discussions with foreign groups on setting up a \$2.5 billion refinery at Aqaba and might invite new bids for the project, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas said Saturday.

The minister, who was addressing a press conference to announce the conversion of the semi-autonomous Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), as a commercial entity (see page 3), did not give details.

But Mr. Dabbas' comments meant that the government had abandoned talks with an American consortium which was among three short-listed companies for the project after the government determined that another U.S. group failed to fulfil its

obligations stipulated in a letter of intent issued in June.

All negotiations on the project are "now dormant," said Mr. Dabbas, without giving the name of the companies involved. "We might decide to cancel everything and invite new bids for the project."

He did not make clear whether the new bids would be based on fresh studies on the project.

Corporate Holdings of America (CHA) was the group to first qualify for the project. Subsequently it was issued a letter of intent in June and was supposed to have submitted a \$12 million bank guarantee to the government.

Mr. Dabbas said the company "failed in fulfilling its obligations."

Officials said the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) determined that a bank guarantee provided by CHA was not "technically"

acceptable to the government and that the U.S. group did not provide a substitute.

In the meantime, the Texas-based Hutchinson Group sent a memo to the government that it was ready to undertake the project and the government decided to reopen negotiations with that group.

But, Mr. Dabbas said Saturday, the government found that both CHA and Hutchinson "were similar" and thus had dropped the negotiations.

Hutchinson Group had formed a consortium comprising the Texas-based H.B. Zachry and the California-based Parson Corporation for the proposed refinery, which will have an installed capacity to process 250,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The output of the refinery will be exported.

(Continued on page 7)

7 Iraqi hijackers produced in London court

LONDON (Agencies) — Seven Iraqis appeared in court Saturday on charges of hijacking Sudan Airways Flight 150. They were ordered jailed for eight days as the case against them proceeds.

The Iraqis did not have to enter pleas in the hijacking of the jet that had been scheduled to fly from Khartoum, Sudan, to Amman.

They showed up at a specially convened hearing in Harklow, Essex, wearing track suits and T-shirts. Three translators were on hand so the Iraqis could understand the brief proceeding before a magistrate, the Rev. Geoffrey Smith.

For the first time, the men were identified: Saheb Sherif Aboud, 28; Adnan Al Harbe Hoshan, 38, from Basra; Mohammed Chamekh Mubassir, 38, a businessman; Mustafa Shakir Abdul Hussein, 26, a civil engineer; Hussein Nouri Nagi, 27, a carpenter from Baghdad; and Saheb Abdul Hasan,

25. The Iraqis surrendered to police at London's Stansted airport on Tuesday after freeing more than 180 hostages without any bloodshed.

Iraqi groups have said the hijackers could be Iraqi government military advisers too frightened by Saddam Hussein's latest purges to return home.

In Saturday's hearing, Magistrate Smith agreed with the request from prosecutor Michael Spang to jail the men pending their next court appearance, which was not immediately scheduled.

The men commandeered Sudan Airways Flight 150, with 186 passengers including themselves aboard and 13 crew, Monday night after it left the Sudanese capital Khartoum. The Airbus 310 landed at Larnaca International Airport in Cyprus to refuel and then flew on to London.

Bomb squad experts who searched the aircraft found knives and some replica firearms but no trace of

explosives or grenades.

Also detained were six women who had apparently hoarded the plane with the seven Iraqis. Two children of the Iraqis were being cared for by county welfare authorities.

The Guardian newspaper reported Saturday that the women were refugees from an abortive Shiite uprising in Basra, after the 1991 Gulf war. The Guardian quoted their lawyer as saying the women did not know in advance about the hijacking, and said that they were seeking political asylum.

Meantime, two Sudanese men who happened to be aboard the jet took advantage of their surprise landing in London by seeking political asylum, according to a report Saturday from Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

The Sudanese made their request when British police were questioning all the passengers and they were then separated from the others, MENA reported.

The home office would confirm only that two Sudanese from the flight

were seeking to remain in Britain.

The Guardian's report on the women quoted David Watts, a lawyer advising the women, as saying that they were all related to people who played a prominent part in the abortive uprising against President Saddam after the allied victory over Iraq in the Gulf war.

One of the women is also related to one of the seven Iraqis charged with the hijacking.

The six women were questioned in connection with the hijacking but were released without charge late Wednesday, before being detained by immigration authorities.

Two of their children, an eight-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy, are being cared for by government social services.

Mr. Watts told the Guardian that the women, who did not wish to be identified because of the risk to relatives in Iraq, included a woman in her 50s, her four daughters aged between 18 and 28, and the woman related to

the alleged hijacker.

The husband and two sons of one of them were executed by Iraqi security agents, he said, adding that the woman learnt of the death of her second son when the security forces presented her with his ears.

She and her daughters have twice been imprisoned and were released on the last occasion under a general amnesty proclaimed by President Saddam.

Mr. Watts said that four years ago, the women fled Iraq and were smuggled into Jordan. Since then they have been to Yemen, back to Jordan and most recently to Sudan, all the time moving from one safe house to another for fear of detection by Iraqi security services.

In each country all six had applied for a visa to Britain, the Netherlands, Canada and Italy, but had been refused each time.

They told Mr. Watts that they had no idea that they would end up in Britain when they boarded the Sudanese plane bound for Amman in Khartoum on Monday.

Cafe-bombing killed 7 in Algeria — reports

PARIS (Agencies) — A bomb explosion in a restaurant west of Algiers on Friday killed seven people, an Algerian newspaper said on Saturday.

Algerian security forces said in a statement that two people were killed and six were wounded when a home-made bomb ripped through a restaurant in the coastal town of Staoueli.

But Le Matin newspaper, quoting witnesses, said the bomb killed seven people and wounded 20.

Liberte newspaper said the bomb was hidden in a bag in front of the restaurant and that a booby-trapped car was defused near the restaurant shortly before the bomb went off.

"In the space of a few seconds, the town's face changed completely. The usual happy atmosphere

gave way to drama and death, shouts and weeping," the Liberte report said.

It went on to cite "unbearable images of women and children running all over the place. On each side of the street, pieces of flesh and pools of blood could be seen."

A week ago, a home-made bomb exploded in a market in the western coastal town of Bou Haroun, 65 kilometres from Algiers. Newspapers said it killed two women and five children.

Algerian newspapers quoted the Human Rights National Observatory (ONDH), a government-appointed watchdog, as saying earlier in August that about 1,400 civilians had been killed in bomb attacks blamed on guerril-

Tehran agents said to have threatened German envoy

BONN (AFP) — Iranian secret service agents burst into the Tehran residence of a German diplomat and questioned him after issuing threats, German Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday.

A ministry spokesman confirmed a report in the German weekly magazine Der Spiegel, saying the incident happened in July when diplomat Jens Gust had invited six Iranian writers to dinner.

The writers were sent home by the agents, the spokesman said.

The Iranian agents forced their way in and took Mr. Gust into another room to question him, claiming they suspected him of supporting "subversive activities," Der Spiegel said.

Der Spiegel said the incident had been mentioned in an internal report by the German Foreign Ministry but had been kept secret, adding that it had been ordered by Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian.

The German embassy in Tehran protested the action and Iran's ambassador in Germany Hossein Mousavian was summoned to the

foreign ministry in Bonn to account for what had happened.

The Iranian foreign ministry had condemned the incident saying it was the result of a "misunderstanding," the spokesman added.

Relations between Germany and Iran have soured after former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani Sadr gave evidence in the trial of five men charged with the murder of four Kurdish opposition figures from Iran.

Mr. Bani Sadr, living in exile in France since 1981, said the attack in Berlin four years ago had been ordered by Iran's spiritual leader Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

One Iranian and four Lebanese men have been on trial for the killings since October 1993.

Since the beginning of the trial the German state prosecutor has suspected Iran's secret services of master-minding the attack.

In March it issued an international arrest warrant against Mr. Fallahian for the murder of the four Kurds.



LEBANON ELECTIONS: Children hand out campaign leaflets for Lebanon's billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri in Beirut on Saturday. Mr. Hariri is running for one of Beirut's 19 seats when the capital votes in parliamentary elections on Sunday (see story on page 12)

Farrakhan vows legal fight against U.S. ban

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Controversial black U.S. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has promised to mount "the Mother of All Court Battles" against a U.S. decision to bar him from accepting a \$250,000 human rights award in Libya.

Speaking at the award ceremony in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, Mr. Farrakhan thanked the prize committee for presenting him with the Muhammad Qadafi Human Rights Award for 1996, but asked it to retain the accompanying prize money.

"While I will accept the honor of the prize, I will ask you to hold the monies until this matter is decided in a (U.S.) court of law," he said.

The U.S. Treasury Department on Wednesday denied Mr. Farrakhan's application to receive either the \$250,000 or \$1 billion that Colonel Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, had pledged to the Nation of Islam after meeting Mr. Farrakhan in January. The treasury said Libya had been on Washington's list of states that sponsor international terrorism since December 1979.

Mr. Farrakhan, a black Muslim, organized last October's Million Man March that brought many thousands of black men to Washington for a peaceful rally.

He told the awards ceremony that the gift "has no anchorage whatsoever to the government of Libya" and was simply named after its leader.

He said that instead of blocking the gift, which would have helped to build mosques, schools and hospitals in African-American districts, the U.S. administration should have matched it with a gift of its own.

"And so we fight what we consider the Mother of All Court Battles, and we believe

we will prevail," he said.

In a statement read during the ceremony, the International Popular Committee, which Libyan officials say is a non-government organisation of Libyans and international figures interested in human rights, said it awarded Mr. Farrakhan the prize as a representative of African-American people.

Previous recipients include South African President Nelson Mandela and former Algerian leader Ahmed Ben Bella.

"Louis Farrakhan and the other Million Man March leaders are true fighters who appeal for freedom, justice, equity and human dignity. For this reason we decided to award our 1996 prize to Louis Farrakhan," the committee said.

Mr. Farrakhan appealed to U.S. President Bill Clinton to reverse the treasury decision.

"I appeal to President Bill Clinton to allow Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam to receive the gift that will allow me to continue my good work in America," he said.

In a reference to Mr. Clinton's campaign call to voters to help build a bridge to the 21st century, Mr. Farrakhan said: "I would very humbly like to help you build that bridge to the future. It can't lead to a good future if it is not built on truth and justice."

Mr. Farrakhan brushed off criticism in Washington of his visit to Tripoli and his ties to Col. Qadhafi. As a Muslim, I should be free to offer words of comfort to those who are suffering under sanctions and embargo in Libya, Iran, Iraq, or even non-Muslims in Cuba," he told the ceremony.

"If I disagree with another government or ... live in another society and disagreed with that government you might find me dead in a ditch."

Ben Laden calls for jihad on U.S. troops

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabian dissident Osama Ben Laden has called for a holy war against American troops in the Gulf region, an Arabic-language newspaper reported.

London-based Al Quds Al Arabi said in a press release ahead of publication on Saturday that Mr. Ben Laden called in a 12-page statement "for a jihad against the Americans who are occupying the land of the two (Muslim holy) shrines."

The paper said it had obtained the statement which was dated Aug. 22, issued in Afghanistan and signed by Mr. Ben Laden.

The newspaper provided a copy of the statement to Reuters, but it was not possible to verify its authenticity.

The U.S. embassy in Riyadh refused comment but said that all such statements are taken "seriously."

Two weeks ago the U.S. State Department named Mr. Ben Laden as "one of the most significant financial sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world today."

The paper said Mr. Ben Laden, whose fortune has been estimated by some Middle East sources at \$300 million, called on followers in Saudi Arabia to "launch a guerrilla war against American forces and expel the infidels from the Arabian Peninsula."

sula."

U.S. and other Western troops deployed in Gulf Arab states have stepped up security measures after 24 Americans and two Indians were killed in the kingdom in two separate attacks. There are about 5,000 U.S. military personnel in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has not directly linked Mr. Ben Laden to the November bombing in Riyadh which killed five Americans and two Indians but said the four Saudi nationals who carried out the attack were influenced by Mr. Ben Laden and militant clerics.

"Pushing out this American occupying enemy is the most important duty after the duty of belief in God," the newspaper quoted the statement as saying.

"The presence of the American crusader military forces in the Muslim Gulf states... is the greatest danger and the largest harm which threatens the world's biggest oil reserve."

The statement also urged Saudi Arabian military and security forces to stay neutral as they were no match to the U.S. troops.

"This stage requires appropriate fighting methods, by swift and light forces working in complete secrecy," the newspaper quoted the statement as saying.

Amman to be launching pad for project to improve economic, environmental performance of businesses

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An ambitious project that aims at actively engaging business and industry in the Middle East and Mediterranean basin in improving their economic and environmental performance is expected to be formally launched in Jordan in mid-September.

The project, entitled Developing Environmental Leadership Towards Action (DELTA), is being launched by the Geneva-based International Academy of the Environment and Sustainable Business Associates.

It seeks to initiate and mobilise collective action by local businesses and industries to "confront environmental challenges" through workshops held between 1996-1998 in the Near East, North Africa, the Gulf states and southern Europe, according to its organisers.

The project will be launched in Amman with a conference — DELTA, Near East Workshop — scheduled to be held Sept. 13-16 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the organisers said in a press release.

Crown Prince Hassan will deliver the keynote address on "Environment in the Middle East" at the outset of the workshop.

"This workshop will bring together a core of 75 chief executive officers and managing directors of leading industries and public enterprises in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank/Gaza, who are interested in learning how environmental leadership can enhance competitiveness, open new market opportunities and avoid emerging business risks," the release said.

Among Jordanian industrialists expected to participate in the workshop are Samir Madani, director-general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Abdul Wahab Zoubi of the

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. Mohammad Arafat of the Jordan Electricity Authority (now National Electric Power Company), Nasser Al Sadoun of the Arab Potash Company and Hani Mulki, secretary-general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Details of other participants were not immediately known.

The workshop will offer a "broad perspective on the latest international and regional developments that are making environmental leadership a new factor for competitiveness."

In addition, participants will also get "an understanding of how the principles of 'eco-efficiency' can enhance 'business' performance, information about the criteria for identifying sustainable investment projects that engage the private sector as partners, investors and managers, (and) an opportunity to meet with key institutions representing sources of cleaner technology, knowhow, finance and capacity building."

The 1.3 million-Swiss franc (about \$675,000) programme is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Centre for Environment and Development of the Arab Region and Europe, and the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme, which is funded and managed by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organisations.

with northern Afghanistan, was formally reopened to traffic on Thursday under what the government said was an agreement with Gen. Dostum.

But Gen. Rozy and a brother of Gen. Dostum, Gen. Abdul Kader Dostum, later told a public rally at Takht Sang in Jumbish-controlled area that they had reopened the highway unilaterally to lessen people's hardships.

senior Dostum aide, said Mr. Rabbani and his chief military commander Ahmad Shah Masood had backed out at the last minute.

No comment from the Rabbani government in Kabul was immediately available.

But government officials said the exchange of prisoners would take place in the next two or three days.

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The Salang, linking Kabul

Disputes hold up Afghan prisoner exchange

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (R) — Last-minute disputes held up a planned exchange of prisoners between the Afghan government and its opponents during the reopening of the northern Salang Highway, opposition sources said.

They said the deal to free 10 prisoners by each side during Thursday's reopening had fallen through because of the refusal by President Burhanud-

din Rabbani's embattled government to release a rebel pilot.

A spokesman for the Jumbish-e-Milli movement of powerful northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum told Reuters that the government in Kabul had earlier agreed to release the pilot.

Halfezzullah, in exchange for a government supporter, Maulvi Zahir.

But Gen. Majeed Rozy, a

senior Dostum aide, said Mr. Rabbani and his chief military commander Ahmad Shah Masood had backed out at the last minute.

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The Salang, linking Kabul

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05.....Cartoon — The Mask
15:25.....Bush School
15:45.....Mac and Matley
16:20.....Italian Soccer
17:00.....New Flash
17:02.....Science Canon
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi
17:30.....Game Show — Pyramid
18:00 Magazine — La Marche
Du Suede Part One
19:00.....Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et
Musique
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Cinema: Cinema, Cinema
20:00.....American Chart Show
20:45 The Free Prince of Bel-Air
21:10.....Black's Magic
22:00.....News in English
22:25 Mini-Series — Jamaica Inn
23:30.....Shon Story Cinema
23:45.....Nelson's Column

PRAVER TIMES

04:45.....Fajr
06:06.....Sunrise Duha
12:36.....Dhuhr
16:12.....Asr
19:06.....Maghreb
20:27.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624540
Church of the Annunciation

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05.....Cartoon — The Mask
15:25.....Bush School
15:45.....Mac and Matley
16:20.....Italian Soccer
17:00.....New Flash
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PRAVER TIMES

04:45.....Fajr
06:06.....Sunrise Duha
12:36.....Dhuhr
16:12.....Asr
19:06.....Maghreb
20:27.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624540
Church of the Annunciation

Jordan Valley.....25/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 32, Aqaba 37 Humidity
readings: Amman 31 per cent,
Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal As'ad.....751672
Dr. Issam Al Asmar.....890504
Dr. Osama Al Hussein 847289
Dr. Khalidoun Klob.....816715
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu.....281484
Al Quds pharmacy.....1-1
ZARQA:
Dr. Nabil Safarini.....901322
Khalifah pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101

THE ARAB CENTRE for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA: Govt. Hospital

109983323

ZARQA National Hospital

109900560

Ibn Sina Hospital.....109986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

109990990

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital

1021275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

1021272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital

1021247100

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital

03814111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 10833200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:30.....Al Ain (add) (RJ)
09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)
09:55.....Lamaca (RJ)
10:05.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:10.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:30.....Beirut (RJ)

10:50.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:05.....New York (RJ)

16:55.....Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)

18:00.....Paris (RJ)

18:00.....Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)

18:25.....Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:50.....London (RJ)

19:15.....Athens (RJ)

19:25.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

19:30.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

20:30.....Vienna (RJ)

20:40.....Tunis (RJ)

21:45.....Frankfurt (RJ)

22:20.....Rome, Tunis (RJ)

01:10.....Cairo (RJ)

03:45.....Doha (add) (RJ)

05:00.....Dubai (add) (RJ)

05:10.....Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

05:45.....Muscat (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)

12:30.....Doha (Q7)

13:40.....Bahrain (GF)

14:30.....Moscow (SU)

16:30.....Dubai (EK)

20:35.....Cairo (MS)

21:10.....Beirut (ME)

22:15.....London, Beirut (BA)

23:20.....Istanbul (TK)

23:30.....Athens (OA)

01:20.....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

02:30.....Belgrade (GU)

06:10.....Madrid (RJ)

07:00.....Beirut (RJ)

12:00.....Frankfurt (RJ)

12:00.....Vienna (RJ)

12:00.....Tunis (RJ)

12:15.....Rome (RJ)

12:15.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

13:20.....Athens (RJ)

13:25.....London (RJ)

21:10.....Cairo (RJ)

21:20.....New Delhi (RJ)

21:30.....Doha (add) (RJ)

21:45.....Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)

22:00.....Dubai (add) (RJ)

22:00.....Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

22:10.....Muscat (add) (RJ)

22:50.....Abu Dhabi, Bangkok (RJ)

22:45.....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)

23:00.....Damascus (RJ)

23:00.....Dubai (RJ)

23:59.....Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights</

More explosive traces found in TWA debris

NEW YORK (R) — Investigators have found more microscopic traces of explosives on debris from TWA Flight 800 but said they could not conclude that a bomb or missile caused the plane to crash last month, officials said Friday.

Further evidence, such as physical damage characteristic of a bomb, was needed to determine if the plane was downed by an explosive device, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said in a joint statement.

Other traces of chemical explosive were found on the plane's wreckage last week. Although investigators officially said they were "of unknown origin," they have identified that PETN, a chemical used in plastic explosives, was found on a piece of a passenger seat near the centre fuel tank where the two wings joined.

We still cannot conclude TWA Flight 800

crashed as the result of an explosive device," the NTSB and FBI said. "Investigators still cannot conclude whether this tragedy was the result of a criminal act."

CBS News reported Friday that a compound found in the wreckage was "strikingly similar" to one discovered at the crash site of Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 killing all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground.

CBS News said it had learned that the FBI lab had identified residue of a plastic explosive called "RDX" found on a curtain in the rear of the jet.

It said the discovery further bolstered the bomb theory because "RDX and PETN are mixed together to make high-powered explosives."

The Paris-bound Boeing 747 exploded and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on July 17, just minutes after taking off from Kennedy International Airport. All

230 passengers and crew on board were killed.

Investigators say evidence so far does not prove or disprove any of their three leading theories — that a bomb, missile or mechanical failure caused the jet to crash.

A computer simulation by investigators of the final moments before the crash placed the blast on the jet's right side, the New York Times reported Friday. The NTSB would not comment on the Times report.

The simulation showed almost everything in the first spray of metal, luggage and other material blown from the plane came from a confined area above and ahead of the right wing, the newspaper said. But investigators told the Times the new evidence did not push them much closer to the point where they could declare that the crash was caused by a criminal act.

An aviation expert and a law enforcement official who is an explosives specialist both told the newspaper they saw several fist-sized holes punched through the backs of two seats on the far right side of row 23.

That is in the centre of the area pinpointed by the computer as the site of the initial blast. The microscopic traces of PETN also were found in that general area. No similar holes have been found in other seats.

Officials voiced concern that recovery efforts at the scene of the crash off the coast of Long Island, New York, would be hampered over the weekend by storms brewing in the Caribbean. The storms could churn up wreckage still lying on the ocean floor and force search vessels back into port.

Searchers have recovered more than half of the debris that stretched in a mile-and-a-half-long (2.5 km) swath at sea. Of the 230 passengers and crew killed, the bodies of 211 have been recovered.

N. rights body's effectiveness questioned again

GENEVA (AFP) — The effectiveness and independence of the United Nations Human Rights Sub-Commission were challenged by pressure groups again Saturday after a marathon session examining a host of issues.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) hit out at the alleged partiality of the 26 experts who examine cases and make recommendations to the Human Rights Commission, whose own resolutions are often based on political considerations. While propositions on Burundi and Rwanda passed with no problem, human rights violations in world political hot-spots saw bitter verbal battles between NGO's representatives and delegates from the various countries under fire.

A resolution critical of Turkey failed to find a majority despite the unusual support of British expert Claire Palley, who is also an adviser to the Cypriot government.

On the Middle East U.S. expert David Weissbrodt demanded that the Palestinians be urged to respect human rights, while securing the deletion of all mention of Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Russian expert also nearly achieved the defeat of a resolution condemning the treatment of the Albanian population of the Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

"It is usual for governments to abstain from condemning particular countries in the commission, which is a political forum, it is disappointing that the same thing should happen at the level of so-called independent experts," commented Sara Guillot of The International Human Rights Federation.

In a statement issued Friday a number of NGOs said it was time to campaign for a sub-commission of genuinely independent figures, with a universal vision of human rights.

They said that the resolutions were adopted after last-minute manoeuvres by implicated governments, while NGOs had their allotted speaking time cut on the pretext that the U.N. was short of money.

Session Chairman Bjorn Eide of Norway admitted that the sub-commission's working methods should be revised. He said it should concentrate on particular issues rather than countries.



Divers from a salvage ship make an ill-fated attempt to pull up a section of the hull of the Titanic, late August 29. The recovery expedition to recover the Titanic's hull, overwhelmed by equipment problems and mechanical failures, was abandoned August 30, a spokesman said (Reuters photo)

Titanic recovery efforts abandoned

NEW YORK (R) — An expedition seeking to recover the hull of the liner Titanic from the ocean floor abandoned its attempt Friday, its mission overwhelmed by equipment problems and mechanical failures, a spokeswoman said.

A 20-tonne piece of the Titanic's steel hull, which had been attached by cables to a recovery ship off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, fell back to the bottom of the sea, said Erin Purcell of Boston-based Reagan Communications that represents two of the ships used in the expedition.

The piece of hull, lifted from the Atlantic Ocean floor by means of several diesel-filled bags, had been stuck about 60 metres below the water's surface before it fell, she said. Diesel was used because it is lighter than water.

The hull fell as recovery crews were trying to haul it into more shallow water. Several of the bags burst and cables snapped, Ms. Purcell said.

The steel-hulled Titanic, thought to be unsinkable, struck an iceberg on April 14, 1912, and sank, killing 1,523 of the 2,200 passengers and crew on board. The wreckage, in water more than three kilometres deep,

was located in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1985.

The expedition had tried unsuccessfully several times this week to retrieve the hull but technical hitches and equipment problems caused persistent delays. Expedition members did manage to attach a beacon to the debris that will emit a locator signal for two years, Ms. Purcell said.

Some 1,700 passengers including three survivors of the Titanic's doomed transatlantic maiden cruise who accompanied the recovery mission returned to port Thursday, she said.

Original plans had called for the piece of hull to be taken to Boston Saturday and to New York Sunday. New York-based RMS Titanic Inc., which sponsored the project and holds the rights to the debris, had hoped to use the hull as the centrepiece of an exhibition next spring.

The U.S.-based Discovery Channel was planning a documentary about the recovery mission, while NBC Television Network and Britain's Channel 4 were planning to release independent productions about the Titanic.

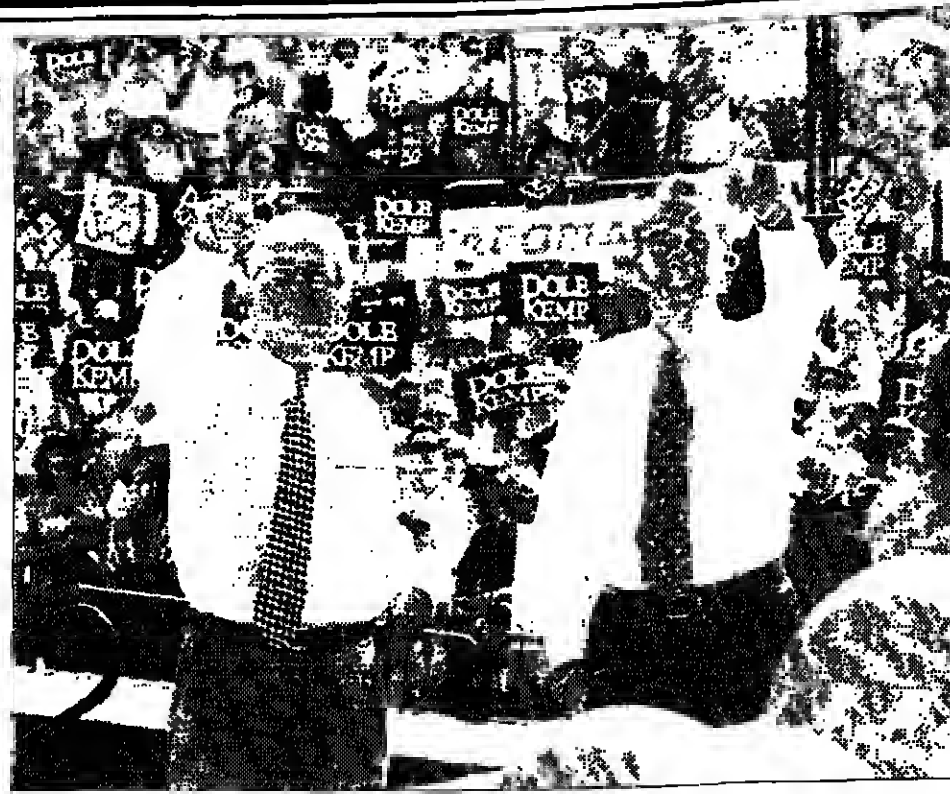
The recovery effort did have its share of critics among historians and scientists. "Why destroy a

grave?" asked Karen Kamuda, vice-president of the Titanic Historical Society based in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, this week. "It's gross."

"You wouldn't sell tickets to a cruise to see the wreckage of TWA Flight 800," she said of the plane that crashed in July and killed 230 people off the New York coast. "Why does it all of a sudden become okay after a couple of generations?"

The Historical Society, with 5,000 members worldwide, also disputes the historical importance of the findings. "We're not talking about Egyptian or Mayan culture. We're talking about manufactured, 20th-century objects. What do we learn?" Ms. Kamuda said.

But Robert Hessler, a professor of biological oceanography at San Diego-based Scripps Institution of Oceanography, said, "The Titanic played such a vivid role in our memories. The objects will remind us of things we've forgotten, differences in how ships are built and differences in lifestyle."



Republican U.S. presidential nominee Bob Dole (right) and running mate Jack Kemp point to supporters in the crowd at a rally at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. Dole is campaigning in California and New Mexico on the heels of President Clinton's nomination as his official opponent in the November 5 presidential elections (Reuters photo)

Dole pushes tax cuts in Republican stronghold

COSTA MESA, California (R) — Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole, campaigning in the party stronghold of Orange County, said Friday tax cuts were the best way to help taxpayers and boost the economy.

"Our plan starts with a tax cut, 15 per cent, 15 per cent," Sen. Dole said. "This is a pro-growth, pro-family programme," he told an audience of several thousand at the Orange County fairgrounds under a blistering sun.

"I hope you've all brought your sunscreen," a tanned Dole said. "We've had a smoke screen in Washington," he added, referring to the policies of President Bill Clinton.

Sen. Dole also derided as late Clinton's proposal to allow home owners to avoid paying taxes on up to \$500,000 in capital gains when they sell their homes. And he said it was possible to cut taxes and balance the budget, a claim the Clinton campaign has derided as unrealistic.

While Sen. Dole hammered away at the policies of the Clinton administration, he was silent about the resignation of top Clinton strategist Dick Morris.

Sen. Dole has been on vacation in southern California but has made some campaign appearances. California has 54 electoral votes, one fifth of the votes needed to win the presidency, and so far Mr. Clinton is leading in the state. Sen. Dole maintains he is not giving up on California.

Sen. Dole also hammered away at liberal judges and illegal drugs, promising a "real war on drugs" if elected. He appeared with his running mate, former Representative Jack Kemp, who told the mostly white audience that Abraham Lincoln, the civil war president who ended slavery, was the role model for both Sen. Dole and himself.

Earlier in the week, Mr. Kemp campaigned for the black vote in South Central Los Angeles, flashpoint of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. He told the Orange County audience about his visit and said a Dole presidency would "deliver the hope of jobs."

The Dole campaign Friday also urged the Clinton campaign to sit down next week with Sen. Dole's aides to work out details for upcoming presidential and vice presidential debates.

"This gives us plenty of lead time to start and of course it's going to take the Clinton campaign quite some time to do this. They have a bigger challenge than we do. They have to explain how Bill Clinton's been on two sides of so many issues," said Sen. Dole's Press Secretary Nelson Warfield.

Sen. Dole told reporters as he was leaving his hotel in Irvine, California, that he still had not read Mr. Clinton's Thursday night acceptance speech at the Democratic convention. "Haven't read it yet. Of course I didn't get to see it. We were in the air (traveling)," Sen. Dole said.

California assembly approves 'chemical castration'

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — California's legislature passed a controversial bill Friday that would make the state the first in the United States to require repeat child molesters to undergo "chemical castration."

The State Assembly voted 51-8 for the bill, which had already easily passed the State Senate. It now goes to California Gov. Pete Wilson, a Republican, who has said he will sign it.

The bill's author, Republican Assemblyman Bill Hoge of Pasadena, expressed delight over the passage of the bill, which he said had received significant bipartisan support.

"Child molestations are going to go down, and they are going to go down dramatically, because of this legislation," he said after the vote.

Mr. Hoge predicted California would set a trend and other states would soon adopt similar legislation. He said Californians were outraged by the "horrible, heinous crime" of child molestation and wanted something done about it.

Mr. Wilson's spokesman, Sean Walsh, said the governor would sign the bill. "If it helps save one child, it's worth the effort," he said.

Under the legislation, an offender convicted twice of molesting a child would, after his release, receive regular injections of a drug to reduce his sex drive unless he agreed to surgical castration.

Chun, Roh appeal sentences in South Korea

SEOUL (R) — Former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan Saturday appealed against his death sentence, ending days of speculation about whether he was prepared to go weekly to the gallows.

Mr. Chun, who was sentenced Monday, was convicted of leading a 1979 putsch and then ordering troops to crush democratic resistance in the southern city of Kwangju in a 1980 massacre.

His successor, Roh Tae-woo, appealed against his 22-1/2 year jail term for playing a secondary role in the coup and Kwangju killings.

Both men were convicted of amassing vast fortunes by soliciting bribes from business tycoons.

"I decided to appeal because it is the duty of former presidents to reveal the truth," Mr. Chun was quoted by his lawyer, Chun Sang-Suk, as saying, according to a report by the domestic Yonhap News Agency.

Court officials declined to give details about the grounds for appeal.

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh had seven days to challenge the court's verdicts, but media reports at one point quoted Mr. Chun's lawyers as saying he may not bother.

Appeals could drag on for up to eight months if the two former generals fight all the way to the Supreme Court. Many Koreans believe that regardless of the result, current President Kim Young-Sam is likely to pardon Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh before he steps down at the end of next year.

The judges indicated at sentencing that they had treated Mr. Roh leniently because of his role in leading South Korea out of three decades of authoritarian rule towards democracy.

The one-time military academy classmates defended their grab for power as necessary to restore order and avert possible North Korean military adventures following the assassination of President Park Chung-Hee.

More than a score of former presidential aides and ex-generals were sentenced with Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh along with nine leading businessmen convicted of offering bribes.

South Koreans hailed the convictions of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh as evidence of how far the country has marched towards democracy since the days when military-backed strongmen occupied the presidential Blue House.

Critics — including Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh — accuse President Kim of waging a personal vendetta to boost his sagging popularity.

Mr. Kim inherited the political machine built up by his two predecessors, and his rise to the presidency came only after he joined forces with Mr. Roh's supporters.

At one point, Mr. Kim said the actions of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh should be judged by history.

Italian police caution soap-sud strippers

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — Italian police said they had cautioned three men who stripped off in a laundrette in the northern city of Bologna to wait — one totally naked — while their clothes were being washed. The owner of the laundrette, who had put up a sign after an earlier incident asking customers not to strip, called the police when the two Algerians and one North African-born Frenchman, all in their 20s, undressed. One took off all his clothes, another kept on just his shoes and the third his shoes and underwear. A police spokesman said the clothes were hastily dried and the men taken to the police station and cautioned for acts against public decency before being released.

U.S. court rules killer better parent than lesbian

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (R) — A Florida court ruled that a convicted murderer was a better potential parent for his 12-year-old daughter than her lesbian mother. The Florida First District Court of Appeals upheld a trial court ruling in 1995 that removed Cassie Ward from the home of her mother, Mary Ward, and her lesbian partner and placing her in the home of John Ward, her father, who was convicted 22 years ago of murdering his first wife, Mary Ward had appealed the ruling saying Pensacola Trial Judge Joseph Tarback had removed her daughter solely because of her lesbian relationship. But John Ward countered that Cassie had exhibited inappropriate behaviour including poor hygiene, bad table manners and a preference for men's cologne, which warranted the change in custody.

Nigerian thieves hire police truck to carry loot

LAGOS (R) — A gang of thieves in eastern Nigeria paid a police corporal to carry off eight air conditioners they had just stolen, the National News Agency reported. "Little did I know I was dealing with robbers," the News Agency of Nigeria quoted the unnamed corporal as saying. He admitted to having been paid 3,000 naira (\$37,501) for his services in transporting the loot valued at 300,000 naira (\$3,750). Police in the town of Uyo said the corporal had been arrested, while the air conditioners had been returned to their rightful owner.

Sterilisation proposal sparks outcry in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — A Colombian official's proposal that prostitutes be forcibly prevented from having children sparked an outcry this week, with Bogota Mayor Antanas Mockus the latest public figure to protest the idea. "We all know that there are too many sons of bitches in the country, but they're not sons of whores," Mr. Mockus said. "I'm sure that there are many prostitutes who can raise children better than I can," he added.

Thirsty jaguar procures water for Bulgarian zoo

SOFIA (R) — Victor the parrot kept shrieking "voda, voda" — "water, water." But it was the constant, fearsome roaring of Michael the jaguar that got water supplies to the Dobrich Zoo turned on again after a thirsty week for 130 animals, the Sofia newspaper Trud reported. A broken pipe clogged up a huge bill which the northern Bulgarian town's zoo could not pay, the paper said. The state-owned water company cut off supplies and was deaf to all pleas until Michael began to roar.

BOLOGNA, Italy — Italian police said they had arrested three men who were charged with the murder of a woman who was a stripper. The men were arrested after a search of their homes. The woman was found dead in a room at a hotel. The men were charged with murder and possession of a weapon.

**U.S. court rules
for better parent
than lesbian**

LAHASSE, France — A French court has ruled that a lesbian couple cannot be considered legal parents of a child. The court said that the child's best interests were served by allowing the biological father to have custody. The court also said that the lesbian couple had not acted in the child's best interests.

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World News

Cambodian government sends arms to Khmer Rouge defectors

CHUP KOKI, Cambodia (Agencies) — The Cambodian government has sent weapons and ammunition to a renegade Khmer Rouge faction under threat of attack from forces loyal to the central leadership, military officials said Saturday.

Troops are also on standby to help the rebels, supporters of breakaway Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary, if they are attacked by a 200-strong force of hardline guerrillas believed to be approaching the base in Chup Koki in Odar Meanchey province, they said.

Phnom Penh Army Division 9 has been ordered to send 400 soldiers based in Samrong, to the southeast, to assist the rebels if necessary.

The delivery of B-40 rockets, antipersonnel land mines, an 80mm mortar and other weapons to Chup Koki village was witnessed late Friday by an AFP reporter.

Chup Koki is one base of the breakaway Khmer Rouge Division 519 just five hundred metres from the Thai border in north-west Cambodia. The division is a key part of the force led by Ieng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge number two who has signed a peace pact with the government.

The assistance provided by Phnom Penh, which included food, was the first direct military aid to the renegade faction since it split with the hardliners in mid-August.

"We have given them this ammunition so they can protect themselves if they are attacked by the hardliners," said army Deputy Chief of Staff Nhek Bun Chhay, whose troops last year pounded the frontier outpost with heavy artillery fire.

Division 519 Deputy Commander Long Them said he and his 300 men were grateful for the support.

"We have to do everything possible to protect our people because we believe we are going to be attacked," he said, adding that about 1,000 civilians also lived in his area.

The commander of Phnom Penh Division 9, General Khin Enyean, said his troops had orders to take part in any counterattack the renegades might be forced to make.

"So far, there has been no fighting. But the Khmer Rouge of Division 519 and my men will cooperate to counter any attack by the hardliners," Khin Enyean said.

"We will keep watching this situation closely and help as much as we can."

The food, weapons and ammunition — 150 B-40 rocket heads, the mortar, at least two crates of landmines, and several large crates of assault rifle ammunition — were delivered by helicopter to Chup Koki from government outposts in Sisophon and Samrong, an AFP reporter said.

On their arrival in Chup Koki the guerrillas eagerly distributed them and sent them to the perimeters of their area of control.

Meanwhile Cambodia's Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen said Saturday that dissident Khmer Rouge guerrillas would have to hand over their territory before they could set up a political party.

Hun Sen's remarks reflected a toughening in the government's position towards the breakaway guerrillas, who have been negotiating peace with the government in Cambodia's northwest provinces of Battambang and Banteay Meanchey, analysts said.

"The constitution says Cambodia cannot be divided...The government cannot negotiate with other political or military organisations that hold territory," he said in a speech to mark the opening of a market in this northwest city.

"Anyone can set up an (political) organisation or association after their territory is put under the control of the government and they must obey the constitution and law of the Kingdom of Cambodia," added Mr. Hun Sen, who is co-prime minister along with Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Thatcher said ready to leave Conservative Party

LONDON (AFP) — Margaret Thatcher, who served as British premier for 15 years, is rumoured to be about to leave the Conservative Party and support the anti-European Referendum Party in the next general election, the Guardian reported Saturday.

The left-leaning daily said the rumours were being promoted by some supporters of the Referendum Party who believe Lady Thatcher's disenchantment with Prime Minister John Major's policies on Europe has reached the point where she is contemplating leaving the Tories.

The Referendum Party, formed by Anglo-French billionaire James Goldsmith, has threatened to put up candidates against Conservatives who do not back a national referendum on Britain's continued membership of the European Union.

The current Conservative government, bitterly divided over Europe, has pledged to hold a referendum on a common currency if, following the next general election, it should opt to join the scheme, scheduled for 1999.

But it has said it does not favour of holding a referendum on Britain's role in the EU, which Mr. Goldsmith's party is seeking.

The next general election must be held by May of next year.

According to opinion polls, Mr. Goldsmith's party would gain between six per cent and 14 per cent of the vote, enough to ensure a Tory defeat in many seats in favour of the Labour opposition.

Lady Thatcher's private office Friday offered no comment on the rumours reported in the Guardian.

But the paper noted that the former premier has let it be known that she will not campaign for anti-referendum Tories in the election.

Russian-rebel talks agree to decide Chechenya status in 2001

KHASAVYURT, Russia (AFP) — Russian national security chief Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel military Commander Aslan Maskhadov agreed Saturday to halt the war in Chechenya, but to delay a decision on the republic's political status until Dec. 31, 2001.

"Then we will decide quietly, wisely and in a civilised way," Gen. Lebed told reporters after seven and a half hours of talks with Mr. Maskhadov in this town in the southern Russian Republic of Dagestan.

Gen. Lebed also said: "We are stopping the war and we are withdrawing the (Russian) army."

The Chechen and Russian delegations, and a representative of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), signed a joint declaration outlining principles for a political settlement to the 20-month war in the north Caucasus republic.

The declaration said negotiators should take "the universally-accepted rights of peoples to self-determination, the principles of equal rights, as the starting-point."

It did not spell out how the status question would eventually be decided, but Chechenya would apparently remain within the Russian Federation during the five-year interim period.

The declaration also failed to define when there would be future elections or who will govern Chechenya until the end of 2001.

The war began in December 1994 with a Russian invasion to quell Chechen aspirations for independence from Moscow and has killed an estimated 40,000 people.

Chechen rebel leaders indicated recently that they were ready to compromise, such as temporarily shelving the status question, in order to end the bloodshed.

The declaration stipulated that "legislation of Chechenya must be written so as to preserve human rights, the right of people to self-determination and to enable the people to make their will known."

The legislation was to be ready by Dec. 31, 2001, but it was not stated what body will create the legislation,



Russia's peace envoy Alexander Lebed (right) sits with rebel chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov August 31. Lebed declared the 20-month Chechen conflict over on Saturday after he and rebel leaders agreed steps to bring lasting peace in the break-away region (Reuters photo)

or whether "self-determination" would be expressed through a referendum or some other method.

The joint statement also ordered the setting up of a commission, comprised of Chechen Republic and Russian Federation officials, by Oct. 1 this year.

Among its tasks will be to present the Russian government with a plan for reconstruction of war-shattered Chechenya and to "control the implementation" of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's June 25 decree on a partial withdrawal of troops from the republic by Sept. 1.

The declaration said both sides must "aspire to create the mutually acceptable conditions for a political settlement of the armed conflict, the recognition of the inadmissibility of use, or threat of armed force for the solution of disputed questions."

The settlement should have "the starting point of universally-accepted rights of peoples to self-determination, the principles of equal rights," the declaration said.

It also called for an end to "acts of force in regards to political opponents," apparently referring to what many have predicted will be a major score-settling between the rebels and

Chechen officials who have worked for the Russians.

"On the basis of this, the future negotiating process will be built," the declaration said.

Although it remained unclear exactly how the settlement plan would be implemented, it was a landmark agreement in that it declared the bitter fighting officially over and addressed the thorny status question, the root of the entire war.

The Chechens, who had always insisted on immediate and full independence, clearly compromised. But the Russian side, which until now has sought to wipe out the separatist guerrilla army, also gave way.

On Friday, Gen. Lebed had suggested a 10-year wait before the status question could be addressed.

Gen. Lebed still faces serious opposition to his peace mission in Moscow from political rivals.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, thought to be a rival of Gen. Lebed's to succeed Mr. Yeltsin in the 2000 presidential elections, chaired a top-level meeting which decided that Gen. Lebed's political plan needed "serious improvement."

However, on Friday, Mr. Chernomyrdin appeared to change tune, saying the Lebed plan "was coordinated

with Mr. Yeltsin himself."

Mr. Yeltsin, the ultimate arbiter, has only given lukewarm backing.

Commander Maskhadov, the rebel military chief of staff, praised Gen. Lebed, saying "this war could have been ended before, but there was a lack of will. Finally we found someone who wanted to end the war."

"I can say to the soldiers' mothers that their sons are not dying," he added.

Gen. Lebed said that agreements reached with Commander Maskhadov had "shown that we are credible. Everything we have decided so far has been done."

Gen. Lebed left Dagestan for Moscow early Saturday after signing the landmark peace accord. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Gen. Lebed said he hoped to brief President Boris Yeltsin soon on the results of his talks with Commander Maskhadov in Khasav-yurt.

Gen. Lebed said Prime Minister Chernomyrdin was due to chair a top-level briefing on the peace accord in Moscow Monday, which would be attended by several ministers, department chiefs and officials from Mr. Yeltsin's legal department.

Mexico's Zedillo pledges to hunt down guerrillas

TIXTLA, Mexico (R) — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo pledged Friday to hunt down a new guerrilla group following a series of deadly rebel attacks across the country earlier this week.

Amid unconfirmed reports of a fresh ambush on the Mexican army by armed men in western Michoacan state, Mr. Zedillo branded rebels of the self-styled Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) as criminals and vowed to bring them to justice.

"Who has given them the right to try to take power by force? That is definitely not acceptable it cannot be tolerated... The state, acting within the law, will use every available means to bring these people to justice," Mr. Zedillo said in an interview with television network TV Azteca.

Hundreds of masked rebels launched surprise attacks on military and police posts in the central and southern states of Mexico, Guerrero and Oaxaca on the night of Aug. 28, killing at least 14 people and wounding 20 others.

On Friday, Mexican media reports said one soldier was killed and two others were wounded after a group of 40 to 50 men carrying AK-47 assault rifles attacked a military convoy near the town of Tacambaro, about 80 kilometres south of the Michoacan state capital of Morelia.

Although the group wore military-style fatigues similar to those worn by rebels, it was not clear if the attack was linked to the EPR. Michoacan state spokesman Jaime Lopez told Televisa Network officials suspected the armed group was linked to drug trafficking and were not guerrillas.

During the televised interview, Mr. Zedillo promised he would not allow security forces to commit human rights abuses in their chase of the rebels.



A Mexico City judicial policeman runs up a flight of steps during a raid on a property in Mexico City during which two people were arrested. It is suspected that the raid was part of the nationwide crackdown on the EPR (Popular Revolutionary Army) which two nights ago attacked military and police installations in six different locations (Reuters photo)

"I have taken the decision that everything done to prosecute these criminals must be done within the law — without violating individual rights... and cautiously abiding by judicial procedure," he said.

The rebel group, which officials admitted had a presence in at least eight Mexican states, called for a popular revolt against the government in a statement published Friday by a local newspaper.

But Mr. Zedillo, due to give his second state of the union address Sunday, said the group had little popular support and was trying to prompt the government into a repressive counter-insurgency that might gain the rebels' local support.

"We will not give them that pleasure," he said.

Mr. Zedillo was criticised in local newspapers Friday for not having taken the rebels' seriously after they first appeared two months ago. Mr. Zedillo's Interior Minister Emilio Chuayffert called the group a "Pantomime."

But the president defended Mr. Chuayffert Friday, saying the group was indeed a "Pantomime" because they were trying to convince the public they represented a legitimate social movement. "They have no social cause their cause is violence," Mr. Zedillo said.

The White House Friday strongly condemned the rebel violence, but the

State Department said it saw no threat to Mexican political or economic stability.

"We condemn the violent actions of what appears to be a very ruthless, small, armed organisation of obscure groups dedicated to the overthrow of the Mexican government," White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters travelling with President Bill Clinton on a campaign trip in Missouri.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies, praising Mexico's economic performance since the December 1994 peso crisis, added: "It's important to underscore that the United States does not consider these actions threatening to Mexican political or economic stability."

Nervous investors, attracted by higher U.S. interest rates and worried about political risk in Mexico, bailed out of Mexican stocks and drove the peso slightly weaker Friday.

Mexican officials told reporters the government had stepped up security measures across the country.

"Security measures have been reinforced in the strategic installations of the country," said Deputy Interior Minister Arturo Nunez, listing oil and gas installations, telecommunications facilities and roads.

New Russian fighter plane buoys hopes for Moscow

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A new Russian fighter said to be capable of amazing feats of agility goes on show next week, and with it rides Moscow's ambitions to be a major player again in the international arms market.

The Sukhoi SU-37 is expected to be the star attraction at Britain's Farnborough Air Show Sept. 2-8, where throngs of potential buyers will get their first look at a fighter that the Russians say will revolutionise air-to-air combat.

The secret is a technology called thrust vector control. The aircraft's two powerful engines are fitted with nozzles that can be moved hydraulically, steering the multi-role fighter into improbably sharp turns and steep angles of attack.

A fighter with thrust vector control can outmanoeuvre any other in a dog fight, according to the Russians. The SU-37 will be the only supersonic fighter in the world with the system — although Britain's subsonic Harrier jump jet pioneered it — until the U.S. F-22 is fielded in 2004. None of the new European fighters offers the capability.

"These are the new planes of the new Russia," said Ariel Cohen, an expert on the Russian military at the Heritage Foundation.

"They're breaking through the veil of secrecy that enshrined this highly prestigious sector of the Russian defence industry during the Soviet era. We'll see more and more of the Russian systems," he said.

Almost as surprising as the SU-37's technology is that it may be sold abroad before the Russian military gets it.

Russia has little choice, according to analysts here. To survive, its proud 30-year-old aeronautics industry — like other Russian defence industries — must sell to foreign countries and find new clients with hard currency.

In fact, the development of the SU-37 reportedly was financed by Sukhoi, with little official backing, through sales of SU-27s to Vietnam and China.

Even though the single-seat fighter has not yet been ordered by the Russian military, Sukhoi will be offering the SU-37 for

export, an unusual step for the Russians but one that is not uncommon among European arms makers seeking to keep production lines open.

Aviation Week and Science Technology, the leading aeronautics weekly, reported that Sukhoi, which aims to become one of the top three exporters of combat aircraft in the world, developed the fighter with the Asian market in mind.

Price should be an added incentive. The Russians are known for selling military hardware at prices well below those of comparable Western systems.

There are some signs Russia's marketing efforts are paying off.

It landed \$6 billion in weapons contracts with developing countries last year, overtaking the United States and France for the first time since the end of the cold war.

Sales to China, a longtime client, and to Iran accounted for the surge, say U.S. experts, who are skeptical that the Russians can sustain the lead.

"They sold some MiG-29s to Malaysia and armoured personnel carriers to the UAE, but by and large it tends to be to those countries that nobody else would sell to," said Joel Johnson, international vice president of the Washington-based Aerospace Industries Association.

"You have not seen major inroads in countries that can pay cash and are acceptable to other countries," he said.

China, which has bought 50 SU-27s and a production license, will continue to be a fertile market as Beijing modernises its antiquated air force.

But it's a "Faustian bargain," said Richard Grimmit, who documented the surge in Russian arms sales for the U.S. Congress.

As former Soviet clients, China is a good match for Russian weapon systems, he said. But Russian licensing agreements may make Beijing a competitor in the Asian arms market. And as a longtime adversary of Russia with a long common border, China is far from the ideal client.

U.S. presses Canada on Cuba; Ottawa feels threat

OTTAWA (R) — A special representative of U.S. President Bill Clinton insisted Friday he was not putting a gun to Canada's head on the thorny issue of ties with Cuba.

But he said if Canada and other allies did not join U.S. efforts to promote democracy in Cuba, Mr. Clinton might refuse to extend a waiver of a controversial U.S. law that punishes foreign firms for investing in Cuba.

"There's no threat. There's no gun to anybody's head," Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat told a news conference before meeting Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Trade Minister Art Eggleton.

He spoke instead of the "added advantage" of Mr. Clinton extending the waiver if U.S. allies went along with the ideas he is promoting.

"One of the factors the president will consider is the degree to which this new effort that we're embarking on — of moving from a unilateral approach to a more concerted approach — is actually something countries are willing to engage in," said Mr. Eizenstat, who visited Mexico Thursday.

The unstated implication was that if Canada and the others did not come on board, Mr. Clinton might not agree next January to extend a waiver on the Title III provision of the hotly debated Helms-Burton Act.

Title III would allow lawsuits to be filed in U.S.

courts against foreign firms that own or operate properties seized by the Communist government in Cuba from U.S. citizens or from Cubans that became Americans.

Mr. Eggleton and Mr. Axworthy told reporters after meeting the envoy that they welcomed the chance to talk and the U.S. commitment to proceeding multilaterally. But they also seemed to perceive a threat that they thought should be removed.

"This whole matter of Helms-Burton is keeping the sword dangling over our head," Mr. Eggleton said.

The Clinton administration is pushing allies to do more to promote human rights and, if trade and aid must continue, to do it in ways that will help the Cuban people rather than the Cuban government.

"We're not saying join us in an embargo. We understand the reality. We're not naive," Mr. Eizenstat said.

"What we're saying is, if you're going to trade and you're going to invest, do it in ways that help the Cuban people. If you're going to channel assistance to Cuba, channel it to the independent sector rather than to a government that's going to siphon it off."

Asked if Canada would change anything as the result of the visit, Mr. Axworthy said, "no" — pointing out continued government-to-government aid to Cuba — but that Ottawa was always willing to listen to any good ideas.

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Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Promising numbers

AFTER A delay of nine weeks, some 1,400,000 students went to school yesterday with great anticipation that the new scholastic year will bring them and their parents new academic and practical experiences. More than 4,200 public and private schools opened their doors Saturday for these students, 120,000 of them for the first time. This is a big national feat in itself since these large numbers tell a promising story about Jordan becoming more and more literate. To realise that one and half-a-million of us are between the age of seven and 18 is also a sign that we are mostly a young people. These realities pose both new challenges and new dangers that call for greater reflection and action.

This occasion should also remind us of the pressing need for reforms in our national educational system. Neither the style of teaching nor the quality of teachers and teaching methods have fundamentally changed to warrant the conviction that the country will truly enter a new era in educational, political, social and economic development. Lack of appropriate funding for public schools in particular takes a heavy toll on the quality of education that they are able to offer. Indeed the crisis in Jordanian education goes beyond sufficient appropriations. Contemporary methods of education do not depend on financial investment alone but also on political and intellectual will to reform the way we prepare the generations for the 21st century.

We also note that private schools which are better financially endowed are still outnumbered by too many regulations that stifle their efforts to introduce modern education. Forcing private schools to religiously follow the state educational system deprives them the freedom to help modernise education in the country. The least that we expect from our authorities is to allow private schools, which shoulder a big responsibility in educating a large number of students who would otherwise have to be taught at the expense of the state, an opportunity to deviate from sterile methods and tools of education at their own expense. Parents have the ultimate choice whether they would wish their sons and daughters to learn in a more traditional way by either selecting schools which would prefer to remain faithful to traditional education or send them to ones which are more contemporary in their approach and methods. Parents must be allowed to exercise more freedom in this context.

Meanwhile, we would like to remind the authorities that greater efforts need to be introduced in order to ensure the safety of children while going to or leaving schools. We believe that both the traffic department and school authorities should assist students, especially the very young, while crossing busy streets and from schools. It is alarming to see young boys and girls trying to zigzag their way between fast moving cars in the early hours of the day and at the end of school hours. Why not assign traffic personnel all around schools for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon for this purpose? This is a big challenge to our traffic authorities to make our children safer by making street crossing for students more manageable.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i accused Israeli leaders of amusing themselves by humiliating the Palestinian people and their leaders, citing an incident in which the Israeli authorities forced Palestine President Yasser Arafat's helicopter to fly over Tel Aviv for 45 minutes before arriving at its destination. Mounes Barakat said that the Palestinians still hold very strong feelings in their quest to regain their lands and they are ready any time to re-open the intifada against the Israeli forces to achieve that goal. If four bombing incidents inside Israel brought about the downfall of the Labour-led government, another spate of suicide bombings could bring down the present government which is led by arrogant leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu, said the writer. It is clear that the Israeli leaders, by their deception and attempts to humiliate the Palestinian people through closing their territories to starve them, are provoking the masses into returning to the intifada as a means of re-establishing their rights and forcing the Israelis to comply with the requirements of peace, said the writer. "The peace of the brave" has been exploited by Israel which is getting away with it on the Palestinian people who are not defeated by the Israeli military might and unless the Israelis stop the confrontational programme and quit the occupied lands there can be no alternative to another intifada to address the situation, he concluded.

A WRITER for Al Dushur criticised opposition political parties in Jordan for failing to follow a strategy that would force the government to take their views into consideration. Indirectly referring to the Islamic Action Front party which, he said, failed to organise a march in Amman to protest the government's decision to lift the subsidies on animal feed and bread, Fakhr Kassar said that this party has succumbed to the government's ban on the march and accepted the government's decision without taking any practical step to protest it. He said the government had studied its options carefully and had decided to lift the subsidies as a result of its decision on the issue. "These decisions are taken openly and finally and without any of the new measures," said the writer. He said that the government must have ascertained that no opposition would arise if it changed its mind about the removal of the subsidies and was sure that the opposition to its decision will end up in thin air from now, concluded the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

South Jordan deserves a crash programme to alleviate poverty and unemployment

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

SOME 400,000 citizens, or 10 per cent of the Jordanian people, live in the southern governorates. Those who participated in the riots which took place in those governorates two weeks ago were, at the highest estimates, no more than 4,000, or one per cent of the population of the south. Those who urged or committed violence and destruction are less than 200 individuals, or 5 per cent of the demonstrators. This is the overall map of the recent disturbances of the southern part of the Kingdom.

Therefore, the disturbances which took place on Friday, Aug. 16, do not fit as basis for drawing sweeping conclusions. There is no significant difference in the political mood or points of view between the south and other parts of the country. Jordan is a small country and one region. It does not help to make a distinction between the south and the north, or for the matter, between the centre and the east. All Jordanians are one people, comprised of citizens equal in rights and duties under the law.

However, there are some facts which should be recognised and understood. The one tenth of the population of Jordan, meaning the people in the south, are spread over three quarters of the area of the whole Kingdom. In this large part lies most, if not all, the real wealth and strategic resources of the country: Phosphate and potash, i.e. all the natural resources are extracted from sites in the south.

Aqaba, the Dead Sea, Petra and Wadi Rum, i.e. all or most of the touristic attractions are in the south. It is in the south that Jordan has the only port which connects the country with high seas and the rest of the world.

I never heard a southern Jordanian demanding more rights than the rest of the Jordanians. The strategic resources mentioned above are concentrated in the south but are a national ownership. They belong to all Jordanians whether they are living close or further away from these sites. But it is the duty of the Jordanians, all Jordanians, to make sure that our brothers in the south are treated fairly and are getting their fair share of the economic development.

It is not enough that they are represented in the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament by a number of deputies and senators in excess of their ratio to the whole population, a privilege which raised objections from groups that lack understanding and sensitivity. What is called for is no less than the elimination of acute poverty in the south. It is true that many southerners have jobs in major companies like Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and Arab Potash Company, but it is sometimes observed that they are given minor jobs while most managers and engineers are brought from outside the region.

Life in the south is admittedly difficult, therefore effi-

cient teachers refrain from serving in the south, thus lowering the standard of education and the ratio of successful students, who cannot excel or compete on equal footing with the students of better schools in other parts of the Kingdom. It is not enough to favour the students coming from the southern inferior schools in university admission, a privilege which also raised objections by insensitive groups. The problem should be dealt with at roots, good teachers can be granted generous hardship allowances to attract them to the schools of the south.

The south was always, and will continue to be, a strong base for the regime. It is the backbone of the Kingdom and its economy. Why shouldn't we direct a larger share of our resources to help develop the south according to a crash programme of say five years.

The writer of this article originates from the north and lives in the centre, but honestly believe that the south should be given utmost priority in economic and social development.

It is of no use to blame external influence, be it from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, or others. The environment conducive to violence stems from unemployment, poverty and distress.

Global middle class, global under-class

By Gwynne Dyer

"A NEW vision of global solidarity is needed to match the push for globalisation," wrote Richard Jolly, chief author of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) 'Human Development Report 1996'. "Without this vision and action, globalisation will become a monster."

"If present trends continue," added James Gustave Speth, head of the UNDP, "economic disparities between industrial and developing nations will move from inequitable to inhuman." Depending on how old you are, you have already been hearing this sort of alarmism for ten, twenty, even thirty years.

Always the same pious tone, and always the same simple message. It's always getting worse, the gap between the world's rich and the world's poor is always widening, the time for a last-ditch effort to reverse the trend is always now.

This simple division of the world into rich and poor, the few barons and the many hungry serfs, was even true once. Back in the 60s and 70s, the North was rich, the South was poor, and never the twain shall meet. A simple, feudal vision of the world for a simpler time. But it isn't true now.

What is actually happening in the world now is akin to what happened in Europe at the end of the feudal era. A new class is emerging, a global middle class, and it will ultimately come to dominate global society both numerically and economically.

With Brazil overtaking

Canada this year to become the second-largest manufacturer of cars in the Western hemisphere, and Malaysian-built cars starting to show up in European markets, you would think this development impossible to ignore. Think again.

The UNDP report, published on July 16, was an extended whine on familiar old themes. It depicted poor countries as the norm, and blamed their poverty on the rich ones. The assets of the world's 358 billionaires, we were told, exceed the combined annual incomes of 45 per cent of the world's people. In 70 countries, almost all in the Third World, average incomes are lower than they were in 1980; in 43 countries, lower than in 1970.

True, in a select group of 15 Third World countries, mostly in Asia, there has been phenomenal economic growth, but even this is suspect. China, for example, will have to create 200 million jobs over the next 10 years to provide employment for its young and growing workforce.

And the UNDP report went on at some length about the 'five forms of undesirable growth': jobless growth, ruthless growth where only the rich benefit, anti-democratic voiceless growth, unsustainable futureless growth, and rootless growth with tramples on cultural identities. The world, in other words, is in a mess.

A familiar litany, delivered in a familiar style, and most of the world's media uncritically reported it as fact. But it is simply not true. Worse, it is dangerously misleading. The report's authors were

probably being manipulative rather than just plain ignorant. For it is their job to drum up sympathy and help for the world's poor. It still serves their purposes to paint the world as a two-class society of rich north-erners and poor southerners, in order to play on the north-erners' sense of guilt and shake some money loose for the world's truly poor countries.

But we cannot even begin to address the real development problems of the 90s if we persist in discussing them in the terms of the 70s. So it's useful to see just how the UNDP report misused statistics in order to create its false picture of the world.

The mere '15 Third World' countries, mostly in Asia, that are experiencing sustained high economic growth, just happen to include China, India and Indonesia. Those countries alone account for almost half the human race. But if you omit that key population factor wherever possible, you can make it sound like economic growth is a rare flower in the Third World.

As for the 70 countries whose average income are lower than in 1980, they were almost all either African countries (whose economic, social and political plight is well-known but virtually unique), or former Soviet-bloc countries going through a temporary collapse of income due to the economic transition from communism.

The total population of those 70 countries was 1.5 billion, which is certainly a lot of people living in poverty. But that same statistic tells us that average incomes are stable or growing in the

countries inhabited by the other three-quarters of the world's people.

Other widely available statistics tell us with undeniable clarity that a clear majority of the people in what used to be the Third World live in countries where average incomes are growing far more rapidly than in the developed countries.

It is true, as people in the aid business insistently point out, that the income gap between the top 20 per cent of the world's population and the bottom 20 per cent has doubled since 1961, but that's predominantly because of the African disaster. The gap between the top 20 per cent and the middle 60 per cent is closing, and closing remarkably fast.

That is the reality for the global market: The relatively rapid emergence of a broad global middle class in Asia and Latin America, and the equally rapid emergence of a global underclass in most of Africa and much of the Middle East.

This is not a pretty picture, and it is fraught with dangers for the future, for Africa and the Middle East are also the regions where democracy is weakest or simply absent, where the environment is most fragile, and where population growth is highest.

But it is not the world the UNDP would have us believe in. And for all its defects, it suggests a less appalling future than the terminal nuclear confrontation between a billion rich, beleaguered northerners and all the rest of humanity in a starving, desperate South that seemed such a plausible future to people in the 70s.

Lebed still has to defend Chechenya deal at home

By Oleg Shchedrov
Reuters

MOSCOW — Russian peacemaker Alexander Lebed, who agreed with a top rebel negotiator on Saturday to end the Chechen war and defer the decision on the region's future by five years, has still to defend his deal in Moscow.

Political experts said that the breakthrough nature of the deal, struck by Lebed and rebel chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov, exposed it to attacks by potential opponents.

"The deal is a breakthrough but it is far from clear how the Kremlin and the country will meet it," said Alexander Kononov, a leading expert in the USA and Canada Institute.

Lebed and Maskhadov agreed that a decision on the future status of Chechenya — the heart of the conflict launched in December 1994 when Moscow sent troops to quell the region's independence drive — should be made by December 31, 2001.

They signed a document saying that the problem should be solved "on the basis of international law and the nation's right of self-determination."

But the document did not say whether Chechenya's secession would be negotiated among other options.

The document also provided for the creation of a joint commission which would monitor Russian troop withdrawals from Chechenya and coordinate financial relations with Russia, post-war reconstruction and humanitarian aid.

The deferral of a decision on Chechenya's future status is only logical because the problem cannot be solved now in the rage of fighting and mutual distrust," Kononov said.

But he said the wording of the deal left scope for different interpretations.

Russian nationalist groups as well as some moderate politicians have said that any compromise over the region's independence would trigger separatism in other Russian regions.

The Russian constitution does not provide any legal mechanism for the secession of any part of the country.

Yeltsin, who had given Lebed sweeping powers to restore peace in Chechenya, has stressed that any peace plan should not violate the constitution.

A government expert said the deal will be first challenged on Sept. 6, when rebels plan to mark the fifth anniversary of their independence campaign in the regional capital

Grozny, from which Russian troops will have by then been withdrawn.

"The deal might survive if both sides agree that there are no winners, as Lebed had announced," the expert, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"But, according to our information, they want to turn the occasion into a celebration of what they see as their victory over Moscow," he added. "If that happens, Lebed might find it difficult to justify the deal."

Experts said that Lebed's authority to strike deals tackling the political status of any Russian territory was far from obvious.

Yeltsin has ordered Lebed to restore peace in Chechenya and gave him unspecified sweeping powers to carry out the task. But the two men have not met since Lebed received his orders.

"Lebed acted like a president in signing the deal," Kononov said. "It is for the president to sign such papers and he cannot hand over his powers to anyone just saying 'act as a substitute president for me today, please'."

"Someone may question the deal later," he added. In the meantime, Yeltsin's position was far from obvious.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Friday that Yeltsin had backed Lebed's plan. But there was no word from Yeltsin himself, who had been seen in public only once since late June, sparking rumours about his bad health.

Yeltsin aides have said the president's health was alright but the 65-year-old president needed a rest after a vigorous re-election campaign and was vacationing at a hunting lodge outside Moscow.

Yeltsin's press office could not be reached for comment on the deal between Lebed and Maskhadov.

"On the one hand, there may be something which had prevented Yeltsin from intervening in the Chechenya talks, and the first guess would be his health," Kononov said. "But there is also a possibility that Yeltsin wants to leave his hands free."

"If Lebed succeeds, Yeltsin will come out from the shade, and grab the fruits of the victory," he added. "If things go wrong, Yeltsin could put the blame on aides unable to run the country in his absence."

LETTERS

The Gypsies, politics and the Dead Sea

To the Editor:

I ATTENDED the wonderful and most enjoyable concert of "Chico & the Gypsies" held at the Dead Sea last Thursday night. I would like, however, to draw attention to two issues which have arisen as a result of statements made by the DJ, which marred the event.

First of all, there was the inappropriate and out-of-context statement "Shalom Yisrael" which he made out of the blue that evening. The role of a DJ is to entertain the audience and not to make insensitive and controversial political statements at an event such as Thursday night's, where for a change, attendees could escape the realities of living in a region charged with political turmoil. Should the urge to bring politics into a non-political event be compelling, I believe that, in view of the circumstances, a cry of "Salami Filistin" should have been made instead, in solidarity with the one and a half million Palestinians living in the West Bank (also across the Dead Sea, which I presume was the linkage that spurred the statement), and the one million living in Gaza who continue to suffer at the hands of the Israelis. Remembering the suffering of our brethren, particularly during the difficult period through which they were passing at the weekend, would have been far more appropriate than greeting the Israelis. Perhaps a reminder here is needed: Israel continues to violate the peace agreements signed with the Palestinians, it is pressing ahead with its policy of colonising Palestinian land to make room for Israeli settlements (a slap in the face of the "land-for-peace" formula); it maintains its unique form of collective punishment, most obviously manifested in the closures which prevent Palestinians from earning their livelihood and seeking access to an integral part of their homeland, Jerusalem; and Israel continues to humiliate its people

partner, the Palestinian people.

The very statement "Peace Israel" becomes therefore totally nonsensical in light of the rise to power of a right-wing government whose actions belie the epithet expressed. And this is why the statement, which was repeated twice, showed complete insensitivity to our Palestinian brothers and sisters across the river, and to those Palestinians who have chosen to make Jordan their home.

Second, I would like to draw attention to another irresponsible statement the DJ made that evening in which he encouraged people to drink. To begin with, the audience consisted of a wide range of ages, many under the drinking age. In addition, there should have been more consideration taken of the fact that many of those present had a long, and potentially dangerous ride back to Amman late at night ahead of them, which should not be attempted while under the influence. Providing buses for transportation was responsible, but many chose to take down their own cars. A word of caution about the dangers of drinking and driving would have gone down far better than drinks being promoted by the DJ. Also, inadvertently, the sad linkage between having fun and drinking was made, as if the one were predicated on the other.

I do hope that such concerns be held more frequently in Jordan, since pure entertainment is healthy and warranted in today's world, especially ours. But for such concerns as last Thursday's to serve their true purpose, in our country or elsewhere, they must take place within a responsible, and hopefully politics-free atmosphere.

Farida Salfiti,
E-mail: 100264.2767@compuserve.com
Amman

negotiation

revived int

Jordan warns

learned from page 1

Why protection of intellectual property is beneficial for both North and South

By Ghalia Bushnaq

IN TODAY'S global economy, good domestic intellectual property laws are not enough. Even if a country has effective patent laws, in order to be able to progress, it must rely on intellectual property laws in other countries to help stimulate trade. For the subject of intellectual property to be incorporated within the framework of the GATT, innumerable differences of opinion among the negotiating countries were overcome. The different concepts of treatment of intellectual property by both developing and industrialised countries made it look impossible that an agreement could be reached. However, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) was finally formulated.

During the Uruguay Round negotiations, industrialised countries expressed their dissatisfaction with the insufficiencies of the present regime of international protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs). They argued that the non-existent or inadequate level of protection in developing countries encourages piracy, thereby distorting international trade by imposing a negative impact on national revenues, and discouraging

expansion into new overseas markets.

Developing countries stated that they lack a sophisticated research and development base and are very eager to have technology transferred to them. To guarantee such transfer, they argued that knowledge should be treated as a common heritage of mankind, available free of charge to all nations. No one can argue that knowledge is a common property of all mankind. But the developing countries seem to have missed a very crucial point: That the product of such knowledge, i.e. intellectual property-based goods, can no longer be considered as such. If knowledge was mixed with the creativity of any person in a unique manner which was unknown to others, then the result of such creativity would no longer be a common heritage of all mankind. It, thus, belongs to the person who spent his/her time, money and novelty, and not to others who merely received the final product.

It is a fact that developing countries are going to bear the brunt of the cost of the international protection of IPRs, at least in the initial stages. Since they have less technology to export, benefits will bypass them. It is a bitter fact that they lack enough resources, and suf-

ficient infrastructure to provide an appropriate protection to IPRs, which pushed them towards piracy. However, looking at the issue from the point of view of the industrialised countries, the inadequate level of protection in developing countries causes them a considerable amount of loss in comparative advantage and national revenue. To promote creativity and innovation in new areas of technology, they pushed for a substantive and comprehensive agreement for protection under the GATT.

Thinking of the controversial views of the North and South, and taking into account the element of fairness, it would be easy to see the industrialised countries' point. Industrialised countries have spent a considerable amount of money and time in formulating a new technologically advanced product or a new process for making existing products. The point missed by many people is that protection would be essential for those innovators to continue in their expensive research by making their efforts worthwhile and their ventures economically feasible.

The author is a trainee lawyer. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

No negotiations on Aqaba refinery

(Continued from page 1)

The third short-listed company, Tsui-Pitchard — a Japanese-American group — has not made any public comment or indicated whether it is interested in fresh talks with the government.

Thirty-four companies had submitted prequalification bids for the project. Under the letter of intent signed on June 16, CHA was to build and operate the facility for 20 years before handing it over to the Jordanian government.

The deal also included a 165-megawatt power plant and a 15,000-20,000 cubic metre per day desalination plant.

Officials here expected the Kingdom to get about \$200 million per year in royalty during the 20-year

period at a rate of 30 cents per barrel of oil exported.

Mr. Dabbas also affirmed Saturday that the government was not interested in investing state funds in the refinery or any other similar power/energy project under negotiations/study.

The government's policy is to accept build, own and operate arrangements, he said. Under such arrangements, the investor will bring in own capital and build, own and operate the project under specific agreements which will also provide for payments to the government and define the regulatory role of the executive authority.

A senior Clinton administration official said last month that several American firms were interested in the refinery project as well as a power plant in the

south among other projects.

Under-Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat brushed aside the snags in the refinery-project and voiced confidence that despite the delays and problems the facility would be built.

Mr. Dabbas said Saturday that the proposed \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion power plant would have an installed capacity of 2,000 megawatts and that the bulk of the production could be exported to Israel.

Mr. Eizenstat, who toured the Mideast last month, told a businessmen's gathering in Amman that Israel's new infrastructure minister, Ariel Sharon, with whom he had met before coming to Jordan, had expressed "profound interest" in buying the output of the plant.

Revived intifada is an option

(Continued from page 1)

a suicide bombing spree in February and March.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he is considering ways to implement the withdrawal while protecting Jewish settlers in the city.

"The PNA rejects Israeli attempts to renegotiate any issue that has been agreed upon with the Israeli government," Mr. Erekat said after Saturday's cabinet meeting.

Mr. Arafat said this week the Israeli government's decision to expand Jewish settlements and its demolition of a Palestinian community centre under con-

struction in East Jerusalem were tantamount to war.

But only about 20,000 Muslims participated in a protest prayer at the Al Aqsa Mosque on Friday in Jerusalem. Israeli soldiers stopped West Bank Palestinians from reaching the mosque.

On Friday, Mr. Arafat addressed residents of the Balata refugee camp in the West Bank, where Palestinian youths frequently clashed with Israeli soldiers during the intifada.

"I say to them (Israel)...if you will not implement what we have already agreed upon, our people still have other options," he

told cheering residents of the camp.

"They have airplanes but I have the Palestinian children," he said.

In Cairo, Egyptian and Palestinian officials met on Saturday in advance of a meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Sunday. Egyptian officials said.

Osama Al Baz, a senior adviser to President Mubarak, Palestinian security chief Mohamad Dahlan and Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour discussed the rising tension in Israeli-Palestinian relations, they said.

Jordan warns of possible Iranian action

(Continued from page 1)

quickly confront Saddam's new plots.

Agence France Presse quoted a spokesman for the group as saying that the main armed Iranian opposition group was fighting side by side with Iraqi forces against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq cleared the way for the Iraqi military intervention into Erbil, the main city in Iraqi Kurdistan, the spokesman was quoted as saying.

"Mujahideen forces, supported by 50 tanks, have been in the suburbs of Erbil, at Aski Kalak, between Mosul and Erbil since dawn," said the

accord spokesman, who was not identified.

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq is based in Iraq. The accord spokesman said "the Mujahideen's military intervention has paved the way for the Iraqi army."

There was no immediate comment from the Iranian dissident group, which maintains a low-profile information office in Amman.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group of Iraqi exiles, meanwhile urged the United States to take swift military steps to stop the Iraqi government forces from attacking Erbil.

In a statement faxed to the Jordan Times from a base in

Salahuddin, northern Iraq, the INA appealed to the "allied coalition that enforces the safe haven in northern Iraq, and especially the United States, to take immediate decisive military action to stop the Iraqi violation of the safe haven."

"The INC also calls on the U.N. Security Council to take urgent action to condemn the Iraqi regime for this massive violation of human rights," it said.

Noting that Erbil is "the capital of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government" and that it had a population of one million, the INC said: "The world must act before a massive human disaster takes place."

Gaza Palestinians shed traditional lifestyle

By Sami Aboudi
Reuter

GAZA — The scene inside the arched gate of Al Nawras resort on Gaza's northern beach would have been unthinkable until very recently.

Young Palestinian men and women, swimming against traditional tides, were enjoying a dip together in a sparkling pool, unconcerned that they might be branded as infidels.

The scene reflected the social revolution that has gripped the deeply conservative Gaza Strip since Palestinian President Yasser Arafat took charge of the area in 1994 under a self-rule deal with Israel.

Al Nawras (Seagull) tourist resort, which opened for business in July, is the latest and most daring feature of Gaza's social liberalisation.

"Up until now, I could not go swimming," said a 19-year-old woman who was with about 30 others inside the pool. "The presence of the Palestinian authority provides us with the security and freedom to wear what we like."

The \$2.7 million resort provides Gaza's elite with a Palestinian version of an exclusive club. Inside the whitewashed walls, families dine, swim and exercise in a posh setting of water fountains, well-maintained lawns and flowers.

Mr. Arafat's wife Suha and her one-year-old daughter Zahwa are among the 170 families using it regularly. Owners say it can accommodate up to 250 families.

The swimming pool is reserved for family use five days a week. Women and men coming on their own must swim separately on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Membership fees for a family of two start at \$300, far beyond the reach of most Gazans. But an influx of wealthy Palestinians since the PLO took charge of Gaza has given the club a solid membership base.

"This is a wonderful place. One can at least find a place here to relax and enjoy a day off," said Husam Shisha'a, who grew up in Kuwait and returned recently to Gaza.

"Such places are terribly important. Otherwise people will lose their sanity and even explode," he said as he ate lunch with his family at poolside.

Gazans, once confined to their homes from dusk to dawn by an Israeli army curfew, have made full use of the freedom won after Israel pulled out its troops in 1994.

On Thursday evening, families gather on the beach for cookouts. Young men

sip coffee and smoke water pipes.

Men and women mix at many of the restaurants and resorts that dot the beach, breaking a taboo long observed throughout the strip.

Palestinians say that Gaza's liberalisation was given a boost by Mr. Arafat's sweeping crackdown on Islamic militants in February and March, following a spate of suicide bombings in Israel in which 59 people were killed.

Recreation centres began to flourish as PLO security forces rounded up hundreds of activists and Hamas's influence on the streets declined.

Founded by six brothers, including two expatriate Palestinian businessmen who returned home after 20 years in Australia, the Nawras club is at the centre of an ambitious project that will eventually include a

five-star hotel and a Roman theatre that runs down to the sea.

In addition to the pool and restaurant, owners are putting final touches to a gymnasium and tennis and basketball courts.

An Italian company has won a tender to furnish a 1,000-seat theatre which will also serve as a cinema and conference centre.

"Once this facility is completed, it will be unique even for the Middle East," said Abdul Latif Al Sabaawi, general manager of the resort. "We look at this project as a lung for the (Gaza) Strip to breathe with."

Fateh Al Sabaawi, 25, an administrator at the site, said: "People had been anxious for such a facility to open. They want to enjoy themselves after 30 years of Israeli occupation."

Scattered China group into tea, cement, taxis, hamburgers

By Mark O'Neill
Reuter

SHANGHAI — Below the elegant cupola of a Russian Orthodox church decorated in pink and paintings of naked women, diners tuck into roast duck and fried shrimp to the sound of popular songs blaring from the television on the wall.

The restaurant is one of thousands of disparate companies belonging to the city's quirkier conglomerate, Shanghai Agriculture, Industry and Commerce General Corp (SAIGC).

If you take a taxi, buy vegetables in a supermarket or flowers for your girlfriend or drink a carton of milk, the chances are you will be contributing to its coffers.

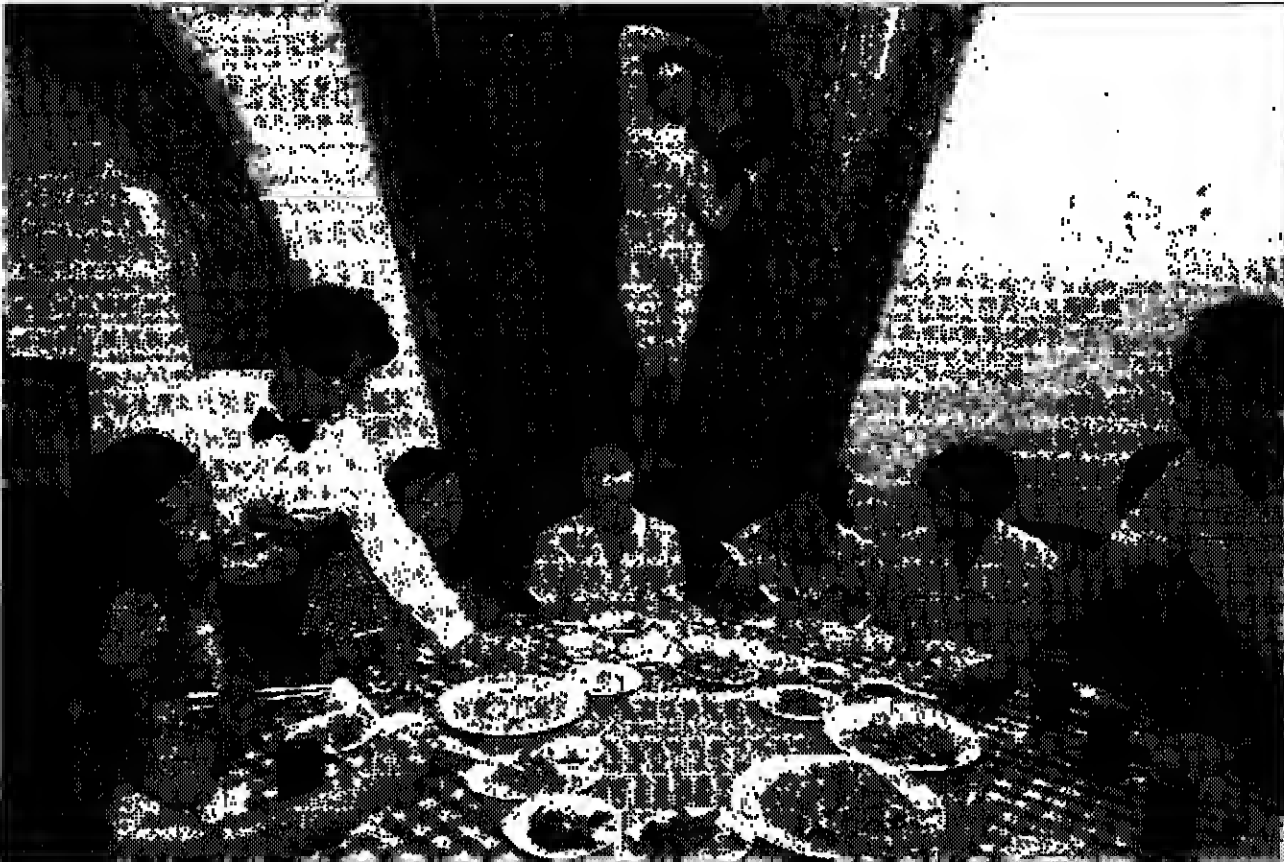
Employing 143,000 people with 1995 sales of 18 billion yuan (\$2.17 billion), it produces everything from tea to cement and steel and car meters, runs 29 supermarkets, an advertising agency, 2,200 taxis, and real estate firms. It also has two subsidiaries listed on the city's domestic A share market. It has signed 200 joint venture contracts, of which 114 have started production, and its empire also includes 18 state farms, schools, police stations, cinemas and cable TV stations.

"It is hard to manage such a scattered company, with much of it outside Shanghai," admitted company spokesman Xu Yongxin.

"With such a spread of businesses, we must find our own priorities and gradually specialise," he said in an interview. "But the group has developed well in recent years. It would be hard to split it up."

Like many things in China's "socialist market economy," the multi-coloured company is a product of history.

In the leftist cultural revo-



Diners enjoy a lavish meal under a mural of a naked woman at a restaurant in what was formerly a Russian Orthodox church. The restaurant is one of thousands of businesses belonging to the Shanghai Agriculture, Industry and Commerce General Corporation (Renters photo)

lution (1966-76), 370,000 young people from Shanghai were sent to surrounding provinces to work on 18 giant state farms, part of Mao Tse-tung's national campaign to make urban residents learn from farmers.

The farms belonged to the Shanghai Reclamation Bureau, which in the early 1980s followed the example of a similar Yugoslav company and branched out into industry and commerce, turning itself into the SAIGC.

By 1987 the group had sales of 1.7 billion yuan and assets of 900 million yuan, employing many of the 350,000 Shanghai youth who returned to the city and were replaced on the state farms by workers from

other parts of China.

A foreign businessman said the success of the firm had much to do with the personality and management style of its chairman, Luo Daming, whom he described as an ebullient entrepreneur. "He is well thought of by the city government which gives him full rein to hire and fire, with more freedom than that given to the bosses of other state firms," he said.

The group is helped by the talents of the young Shanghai people sent to the state farms in the 1960s, who now occupy many of the middle management posts.

The two companies listed on the Shanghai stock exchanges both trade local currency A shares.

One, Donghai Co Ltd, posted net profit of 24,834 million yuan in the first half of 1996, up from 16,343 million in the same 1995 period.

Dong Hai makes farm and industrial goods and operates taxis, grouping a total of 16 companies employing 3,700 people.

"We are a state company in nature but do not operate like those large state firms," said a Donghai official. "Our companies operate with a great deal of independence and are flexible like rural enterprises. They operate in the market."

The other A share company, SAIC Multiple Trading Co Ltd, which had turnover of 1.4 billion yuan in 1995, is mainly involved in import and export business.

It also has a 50 per cent stake in a MacDonalds hamburger shop in Shanghai's main shopping street and runs a chain of health food restaurants in the east of the city.

I spent 10 years on a state farm and came back to Shanghai full of energy, to make up for the time I lost," said Wang Ruchuan, an official of the trading company.

"We started early as market companies and made our own decisions," he said. "Those in state firms worked according to a strict plan and did not have our energy and autonomy. Their workers are not so motivated."

"We were not part of the state plan. We had to rely on ourselves," he added.

Iraqi and KDP forces seize Erbil

(Continued from page 1)

thousands of their Revolutionary Guards as deep as 40 kilometres into Iraq," he said.

He said the Iranian forces had set up base at Choman, on the road between Erbil and the Iranian border.

"Despite all our pleas for intervention to stop the Iranian aggression and to stop the PUK which initiated the ceasefire violations, we had no response," said Mr. Zebari, referring to the United States and its allies.

"The Iraqis intervened mainly because of the Iranian presence. They sent some forces and armoured units across the border into the Kurdish zone, but they stayed on the outskirts of Erbil," he told AFP by telephone.

"We also had to respond to the Iranian deployment," he said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said he ordered a reinforcement of U.S. forces in the Gulf region and placed them on a state of "high alert" in response to the Iraqi military activity in northern Iraq.

Mr. Clinton made the

announcement after the White House said that Washington was reviewing its options to respond to the largest Iraqi troop activity since the Gulf war in 1991.

Developments in the region "cause me great concern," the president said in a campaign speech. "I have placed our forces in the region on high alert and they are now being reinforced."

"It is highly premature at this time to speculate on any response we might have, but we are prepared to deal with these developments," Mr. Clinton added.

U.S. officials are weighing sending to the region an air expeditionary force of about 34 combat aircraft and 1,200 support personnel from U.S. bases, Defence Department officials said.

Pentagon officials said U.S. warplanes doubled their sorties over no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq.

"We will be working hard with others in the international community to share our concern," the president added.

A spokesman for the British Foreign Office said he had "nothing to add" to an earlier

condemnation of the attack on Erbil.

"We condemn Iraqi involvement," a Foreign Office spokesman had said earlier, adding the British government was concerned. "The Iraqis have an appalling record of how they are treating their own people... and in no way can Iraqi involvement be considered as helpful," he continued.

The French Foreign Ministry, said Paris was seeking information on Iraqi troop movements, as the situation "appeared quite confused," a spokesman said.

In his comments in Baghdad, Mr. Aziz nailed against the U.S., British and French forces in northern Iraq for bringing "to the Kurds nothing but death, destruction, anarchy and the loss of opportunities for development and decent living." The PUK urgently appealed for help from the Western forces based in Turkey and the Gulf region, and reported "scores of civilians casualties." Others were fleeing in droves, it said.

Mr. Talabani later said in a radio broadcast that the United States had assured him that action would be taken soon against "the aggressors in

Baghdad."

He said the United States and other Western allies "will not abandon our people and that they will soon deal a lethal blow to the aggressors in Baghdad."

The United States, Britain and France set up the safe area in northern Iraq to protect the Kurds from Iraq's military after a failed rebellion in 1991.

The KDP and PUK joined forces in the 1991 rebellion, but turned on each other after the enclave was established.

The United States mediated a ceasefire last year, but it broke down Aug. 17 when the Kurdish factions resumed banding one another.

The fighting flared amid differences over customs revenues from a road between Turkey and northern Iraq. Officials from the PUK say the KDP has used the money to increase its own power rather than fund the region's government. The safe haven covers 44,000 square kilometres of mountain terrain bordering Iraq, Turkey and Syria. Iraq regards the safe haven as an interference in its domestic affairs, but had not launched a major military attack until Saturday.

A U.S. Navy spokesman in Bahrain said American forces,

combat vessels and fighter planes patrolling the Gulf could respond to threatening Iraqi troop movements in northern Iraq immediately if called upon.

"We would be able to respond immediately to the threat in northern Iraq. Within hours," Commander T. McCreary, spokesman for the U.S. Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, told Reuters.

Analysts said President Saddam was testing the West's resolve.

"He is trying to challenge the West at its own game...He is being an opportunist. Whether he pursues it will be dependent totally on the Western response," John Roberts, editor of the Middle East Monitor, told Reuters.

London-based Kurdish expert and writer Hazhir Teimanon said President Saddam had deliberately chosen a city within the U.N. declared no-fly zone in a bid to test American resolve.

"He must be tempted to try to inflict humiliation on the West, particularly the Americans in this election year, by showing they would not take action against him," Mr. Teimanon told Britain's Sky News Television.

8 Economy

Saudi delegation expresses satisfaction with quality of Jordanian produce

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan expects a dramatic increase in its exports of agriculture produce to Saudi Arabia with an expected Saudi government approval of the quality of the Jordanian produce. Industry sources and officials said Saturday.

They said a Saudi technical delegation, currently visiting Jordan, had expressed satisfaction with the quality of Jordanian produce, including the type of fertilizer, irrigation methods and quality of water used for farming.

The expected reopening of the Saudi market for Jordanian produce coincides with impressive figures of Jordan's exports to its southeastern neighbour.

The delegation's visit follows the signing of an trade agreement between Jordan and Saudi Arabia three months ago, when Saudi Trade Minister Osama Faqih visited Jordan and co-chaired a meeting of a joint committee, which had not met since the Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The agreement signed on June

13 calls for exemption of all customs duties and fees on all agricultural and industrial products of each other as well as minerals.

Officials and businessmen here expect a marked increase in Jordanian exports following the signing of the agreement, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 1997, after the two sides finalise an executive programme to implement it.

The accord, one of the most liberal trade agreements that Jordan has signed with any country, was seen as tailor-made by Amman to reinforce its relations with the world's largest oil exporter.

"Jordan and Saudi Arabia have always enjoyed traditionally strong relations and, as such, the Jordanian market is fully open for Saudi products just as the Saudi market is open for Jordanian exports," said Mr. Faqih.

the Saudi minister.

Hamed Al Oufi, head of the visiting Saudi technical delegation, was quoted as saying in the local press on Saturday that he was satisfied with the quality of Jordanian produce, which, he affirmed, was up to the quality that is offered by other countries which use advanced technology. Mr. Oufi said he expected a formal approval for the resumption of Jordanian produce to Saudi Arabia to be announced through "the official channels" — the government of Saudi Arabia, which slapped a ban on Jordanian agricultural exports in 1991.

The Saudi delegation, which includes several experts, is also expected to visit industrial sites in Jordan with a view to familiarising itself with the quality of the products of the Kingdom.

According to official statistics, Jordan's exports to Saudi Ara-

bia were worth \$100 million and its imports of Saudi products were worth \$130 million in 1995.

During the first half of this year, Jordanian exports to Saudi Arabia rose by more than 100 per cent over the same period last year, officials said.

The value of exports to Saudi Arabia until June 30, 1996 was \$4 million dinars while the corresponding figure for 1995 was 26 million dinars, according to the officials.

"With the expected resumption of agricultural exports to the Saudi market, we expect a surplus in our trade balance with Saudi Arabia compared with the deficit that we saw in 1995," said an official.

Jordan buys 100,000 tonnes of Syrian barley

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has concluded a contract for the purchase of 100,000 tonnes of barley from Syria and the shipment will start arriving here in the coming few months, according to Supply Minister Muir Sobar who signed the deal in Damascus.

Speaking upon returning to Amman, following a two-day visit to Syria, Mr. Sobar said that the agreement followed his talks with Syrian government officials on the exchange of goods and on bolstering bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields.

During his visit, Mr. Sobar represented Jordan at the opening of the annual Damascus International Fair upon the invitation of the Syrian minister of economy and foreign

trade. 67 Jordanian firms and industrial concerns are displaying samples of national products at the fair.

The officials in charge of the Jordanian wing of the two-week fair were urged by the minister to facilitate the conclusion of contracts between the Jordanian businesses and visiting merchants. Mr. Sobar said he held talks with several Syrian ministers and discussed barter trade between the two countries, especially the exchange of barley and cement.

He expressed deep satisfaction with the outcome of the talks noting that the Syrian officials have expressed keenness to promote economic ties with Jordan.

Bigger harvests ease pressure on world grain

LONDON (R) — Bigger harvests and a drop in demand, particularly from China, point to lower grain imports after a period when prices have been at historic highs, the International Grains Council (IGC) said Friday. The London-based council is an authoritative monitor of world grains supply and demand. It said buyers may soon have a stronger hand partly because of bigger harvests in all major exporting countries except the United States.

It raised its forecast for the 1996 world wheat harvest by 3.0 million tonnes from its previous estimate to 563 million. This is up from 539 million last year.

The leading buyer, China, may also cut imports after a likely increase in its own production. Traditional suppliers like Australia will need to explore other outlets.

"The forecast decrease in world import demand and improved availabilities in all major exporters...has strengthened the commercial advantage of importing countries," said Bill de Maria, assistant executive director of the IGC.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to stay at home and get conditions there improved with your loved ones so that you can avoid possible difficulties. Make today memorable for your mate, especially if its your anniversary or some special time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Seek answers to philosophical questions at right sources today and then follow whatever you truly believe in since you have always found that your inner voice has never failed you and you can make the correct decision. **GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to have more of this world's good today or whatever else you may need and then you can gain advice from others. This evening you can go out on the town with close friends to recreations which will be fun for all.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how best to gain your personal goals today and extend your efforts to such purpose with the assistance of some knowledgeable person. Later this evening you can proceed with some career activities which have been waiting.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make some fine plan to gain your greatest goals today and you can achieve them with some advice of a bigwig who has the answers. You had better retire early tonight and get an early start for the coming days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study conditions carefully so that you know better how to proceed today on some important career activities which you need to complete. Plan how later this evening to add greater benefits to your business and financial life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you need assistance from an important person today, don't hesitate to ask since he or she has offered to consult with you many time before. Make sure you drive carefully on the highway this evening and avoid any difficulty.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Forget dull duties today and get into fascinating ones and you can get ahead much faster in your career activities than you had anticipated. Later this evening you can gain the support of a bigwig for a new project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan your time and career activities wisely today for the coming week and be very practical and productive so that those in authority will notice your abilities and provide you with the recognition which you desire and earn.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to please outside fellow associates today and get more cooperation from them concerning some new career activities and you can gain recognition from those in authority. Attend public functions in your community later this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A discussion with a fellow associate can be helpful today, especially concerning some project which you both have been involved in for sometime. Coordinate your ideas and you will receive results which are quite successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to relax with recreational activities so go after them today and later this evening you can meet close friends and your loved ones have a pleasant time together. You can have a romantic time with your mate, so think out the details.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

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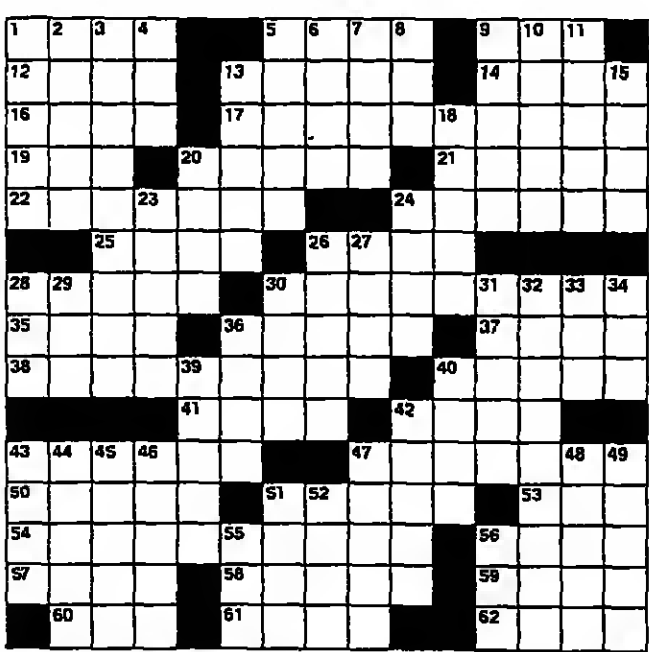
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Theatre Programme Tel. 606992/3
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Monday, 2nd September 1996 at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 3rd September 1996 at 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 4th September 1996 at 8:00 p.m.

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray

- ACROSS**
- Lake in Italy
 - Communications word
 - River in Germany
 - Lulu
 - Insulting pulldowns
 - Gam or Tushingham
 - Canopy for a boat
 - 1996 Oscar for original music
 - Clothe
 - Tall and thin
 - Lurches
 - Impart zest to
 - hound
 - Poison
 - and switch
 - Indian group
 - Calendar word
 - Scads
 - Intolerant one
 - Hard to handle
 - Was useful
 - Count in music
 - Drive the getaway car, e.g.
 - Seasoning
 - Islands around lagoons
 - Roof style
 - Washes
 - Trademark
 - British miler, Sebastian
 - 1996 Oscar for best picture
 - Particle
 - Fill up
 - Puzzo subject
 - Middling
 - Poker call
 - Preminger
 - Part of B.A.



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Monday's Puzzle solved:

PASS ARAM CABS
AXIOM LOSE AGRAL
ZELDA BOER NALL
ANNAKARENINAI
ALA TONY IRONY
PENALTY CLAN
PONGEE BOYS SHA
ANET DON ETAL
LEX STYX SELENE
MORE SULKIER
PLATO SHEA NETI
THEGOODDEARTH
ROAN PAIR EERIE
ANNE ERNE DAISY
PEST REED DOME

- DOWN**
- Terra —
 - Pungent bulb
 - 1996 Oscar for best director
 - Table scrap
 - Solo
 - Las Vegas need
 - Wallach or Whitney
 - Whiskey
 - Apron pants
 - Test answer
 - Rock group
 - Barbara or Clara
 - Mass robes
 - "— Bulba" (Gogol)
 - Egg-shaped
 - Embarkment
 - Former governor, Cuomo
 - Perch
 - Some auto sales
 - Thrash
 - 2 George of Hollywood
 - Med. provider
 - Sharp — tack

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

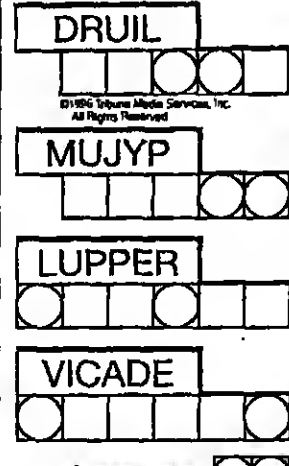
GLASBERGEN 8-22



"Why do you always brush your teeth before bed? Do you kiss other men in your dreams?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



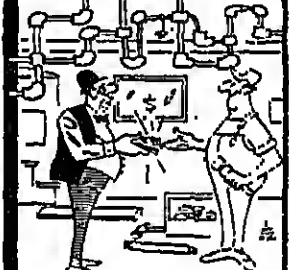
Answer here: THE

Yesterday's: Jumbles: COVEY WHOSE DECEIT BANANA

Answer: Difficult to do when you've had one too many — THE ONE ON

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argitor



WHAT THE CONTRACTOR HAD TO DO WHEN THE PLUMBER FINISHED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Bus Project to generate electric power from methane approved

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Umm Uthaina behind San Rock Hotel

Project to generate electric power from methane gas approved

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Higher Council for the Protection of the Environment (HCPE) has given its consent to a project for generating electric power by methane gas produced through the treatment of solid waste as proposed by the American firm Browning Ferris Inc.

"The firm has offered to finance the estimated \$20 million project and to spend \$100,000 immediately on financing a feasibility study on this project in cooperation with local Jordanian firms," according to Ghazi Oudat, HCPE deputy chairman.

He said that the project is based on solid waste collected from residential areas, medical centres and commercial businesses and factories to be treated at special plant for recycling the different products.

This project is very feasible from economic and environmental viewpoints as it will be designed to keep the Jordanian environment clean while at the same time it will also be a source of income from the generation and marketing of energy," added Mr. Oudat.

He said that the gases produced from the treatment of solid waste include methane gas (CH₄), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other gases noting that the methane gas in particular is a strong pollutant of the atmosphere with detrimental effects on humans.

He said that the Jordan Electricity Authority has expressed readiness to enter into negotiations with the American firm for the purchase of the generated electric energy.

According to the HCPE, Jordan has 25 waste dumps at present and is currently building a garbage dump in Swaga, south of Amman, which will be the only dumping site that can handle dangerous waste from hospitals and chemical plants.

Lloyd's gains approval for rescue plan

LONDON (AFP) — Lloyd's of London, the famous insurance market, succeeded at last Friday in gaining approval for a vital recovery plan, after years of crisis and bitter lawsuits which had threatened the institution's survival.

The plan aims to close the book on the darkest period in the market's 308-year history, and end the avalanche of legal claims launched against Lloyd's by the "names", wealthy individuals who have traditionally pledged their fortunes to guarantee the market's insurance contracts.

Thursday night, 91 per cent of the 34,000 names worldwide had accepted the "reconstruction and renewal" plan, Lloyd's announced in a statement Friday, declaring the settlement offer unconditional.

The plan's approval marks a turning-point for the embattled insurance market, freeing it to push forward with a modernisation programme that is steadily reducing the role of names in favour of corporate investors.

Next year, there are likely to be around 10,000 individual investors trading on the market, down from the 34,000 in 1992.

Names, the majority from well-born British families who had always seen Lloyd's as a largely risk-free investment, were hit with catastrophic losses some years ago.

Between 1988 and 1992,

Lloyd's incurred record losses of eight billion pounds (\$12 billion), following a series of natural disasters such as the Piper Alpha oil rig explosion and hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, and long-term pollution claims linked to asbestos use in the United States.

According to the rules of the market, names faced unlimited liability. The market has now introduced limited liability for the new corporate investors.

Faced with these vast losses, which drove some of them to ruin, and others even to suicide, thousands of names launched bitter legal battles, accusing Lloyd's and its agents of negligence.

The last of these, before a U.S. court, was quashed by Lloyd's Tuesday night, but several names who have not accepted the offer intend to pursue their crusade.

The proposed plan will distribute 3.2 billion pounds to the names to reduce their debts and cover litigation costs, provided they drop all outstanding legal claims.

Lloyd's original offer of 900 million pounds in 1994 was rejected.

Potash company boosts net profit by 23.4% in first seven months of '96

* THE ARAB Potash Company (APC) boosted net profit by 27.5 per cent during the first seven months of this year as it amounted to JD 23.4 million compared to JD 18.35 million during the same period in 1995. Total sales reached JD 70 million during the January-July 1996 period compared to JD 58 million recorded the same months of last year.

APC Director-General Suleiman Hawari attributed the rise in profit to the company's concentration on high-yielding international markets in addition to the 30 other traditional world markets. He stressed that APC succeeded in maintaining the price level despite the stiff competition and the dumping methods used by some world producers. Mr. Hawari indicated that based on the optimistic results achieved so far, the company has decided to adopt a \$102 million production expansion scheme under which potash output would gradually be raised to 2.2 million tonnes annually starting from 1998 (Al Ra'i).

Minister promises TCC workers a bonus if earnings exceed JD 180m

** THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS Corporation (TCC) was able to earn JD 125 million during the first seven months of this year but the minister of post and communication is targeting JD 180 million for the whole of 1996. To

achieve this goal, the minister has decided to give the TCC's 4,000 employees an extra one month salary as a bonus to each of them if the figure was realised (Al Ra'i).

World Bank has PTC second on privatisation list

** TRANSPORT MINISTER Nasser Lawzi has revealed that the Public Transport Company (PTC) is the second priority for privatisation after the Aqaba Railway Corporation. As such, the ministry has begun to draw a clear concept for the privatisation of the PTC. Mr. Lawzi said. He explained that PTC will be turned into a controller of operations and an owner of the rights for bus routes. One or

two public shareholding companies will then be allowed to operate in addition to other companies that are currently operating buses on some routes. Mr. Lawzi said the government will not force any single one company to operate buses on all the routes but it would prefer if all companies join under the umbrella of the company that will be formed (Al Ra'i).

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 801111 / 801119

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 31/08/1996

LAST 12 MONTHS	MONTHLY LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	22.7	2.51	8	260	36960	229.00	231.60	2.60
1,310	1,180	MID. EAST. INV. BK.	29.3	0.00	11	8050	7250	9.00	9.00	0.00
2,700	2,100	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.1	6.37	2	600	1332	2.20	2.22	0.02
5,720	4,250	THN. HUSSEIN BK.	12.8	3.96	4	2500	11630	4.70	4.66	-0.04
1,240	890	JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	7.61	8	11480	10534	92.30	92.30	0.00
4,180	3,390	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.3	0.00	10	1000	20174	3.58	3.58	0.00
3,430	2,310	ABTAL-HAL (BETHNA)	1.5	6.30	8	1052	3501	2.40	2.38	-0.02
1,090	740	AMMAN BANK INV.	0.00	0.00	10	16500	3760	24.25	24.25	0.00
1,580	1,000	POSTAL DEV. BK.	9	0.00	5	3427	7797	1.10	1.11	0.01
MARK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 179.32	CHANGE: +0.78	71	48389	57981			
3,340	3,620	GENERAL ARAB INBUR.	76.6	0.00	1	700	1719	2.60	2.47	-0.13
4,410	4,000	JERUSALEM FINANC.	11.7	4.65	1	2000	15400	4.26	4.30	0.04
2,910	2,150	JOR. PRISON INBUR.	6.2	9.09	5	2400	5269	2.19	2.20	0.01
SECURITIES SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 121.52	CHANGE: +0.15	7	6200	18988			
1,900	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.7	7.79	35	42400	65699	1.53	1.54	0.01
1,560	1,140	LEBNO ELECTRICITY	9.6	6.85	5	1900	3769	1.42	1.46	0.04
2,400	2,090	SHIPPING LINES	9.1	7.00	1	700	1847	2.18	2.20	0.02
2,130	1,080	RAIL PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	15	8700	10429	1.19	1.20	0.01
1,380	940	ZARFA ENHANCING	9.8	0.00	20	12950	12753	1.04	1.09	0.05
2,430	1,700	ORIENTAL ED.	9.8	9.18	10	3500	6725	1.87	1.86	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.47	CHANGE: -0.31	96	70730	100915			
1,770	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.8	3.95	44	14713	49669	3.37	3.35	-0.02
3,550	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	31.7	0.07	2	450	2297	2.05	2.05	0.00
5,940	4,780	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.6	2.84	2	550	4619	6.30	5.80	-0.50
10,550	8,720	JOR. PETROLEUM REF.	9.4	8.63	34	18510	10765	9.29	9.27	-0.02
1,590	1,150	MOORE INDUSTRIES	94.1	0.00	17	7900	1335	1.27	1.33	0.06
2,750	1,750	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	24.0	0.00	3	1100	1917	1.75	1.71	-0.04
8,150	6,420	JOR. PORTLAND CEMENT	8.2	3.68	1	1000	1520	7.08	7.05	-0.03
5,100	3,100	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	20.9	5.26	27	7491	21610	3.70	3.80	0.10
5,850	3,650	JOR. CEMENT IND.	7.9	4.17	1	150	950	6.00	6.00	0.00
2,600	2,050	JORDAN DAIRY	12.9	7.15	4	737	159	2.44	2.44	0.00
4,050	3,000	JOR. PAPER MANUF.	17.5	2.93	1	200	583	3.25	3.41	0.16
8,000	4,250	DAR ALHANA IND.	12.7	4.20	5	1000	1631	4.50	4.65	0.15
8,900	3,140	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.5	0.72	3	1500	5321	3.44	3.44	0.00
740	450	LIVESTOCK & POLTRY	6	0.00	100	219473	125023	0.55	0.57	0.02
2,500	1,040	FRAN. HANRA CONV. IND.	9.6	8.22	1	500	530	1.27	1.28	0.01
2,450	1,910	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	2853	4211	3.11	3.13	0.02
1,410	660	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	5.70	1	250	173	0.69	0.69	0.00
2,020	1,060	UNIVERSAL PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	7	2250	2650	1.16	1.16	0.00
1,170	830	JOR. ROPEWORK INDUS.	9	0.00	1	3000	2760	0.92	0.92	0.00
5,350	4,140	JOR. WOOD INDUS. (JWICO)	17.8	2.00	1	250	1248	5.23	4.99	-0.24
1,600	830	JOR. SULPHUR-CHEN	9	0.00	1	150	125	0.90	0.90	0.00
2,180	1,000	ARAB PAPER CO.	27.3	0.00	9	1500	2117	1.47	1.46	-0.01
1,820	1,090	KATEERA INVEST.	51.0	4.23	4	1200	3666	2.40	1.42	-0.98
3,280	1,760	TRAV. MODE. INTR.	5.8	10.26	2	600	1170	1.95	1.95	0.00
2,100	1,140	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.5	0.00	8	3250	4685	1.42	1.42	0.00
2,480	1,750	E. JAT. NAVY MANF.	9	0.00	3	2120	3921	1.27	1.25	-0.02
1,490	1,090	INCL. TOBACCO	27.5	0.00	2	500	585	1.18	1.17	-0.01
2,130	1,130	ORION CH. & VEG.	29.1	0.00	8	2000	2360	1.19	1.18	-0.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.25	CHANGE: -2.02	240	273116	274274			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 144.34	CHANGE: 11.26	656	398355	493048			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 31/08/1996

LAST 12 MONTHS	MONTHLY LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
810	620	JOR. TRADE FAC.	16.5	0.00	6	7000	4340	0.63	0.62	-0.01
960	700	ORION INT. 504	67.8	0.00	8	8008	1395	0.73	0.73	0.00
1,700	520	ARAB FIN. SERV.	30	0.00	30	21150	1144	0.55	0.54	-0.01
640	340	JOR. INDUS. (KATEERA)	9	0.00	1	500	125	0.47	0.45	-0.02
970	510	ARAB FOOD & HED.	5	0.00	4	9500	2300	0.65	0.65	0.00
1,770	1,140	RAIL. CHEMICALS	8	0.00	4	3200	4685	1.42	1.42	0.00
1,160	530	RAIL. TEXTILE	6	0.00	3	1200	563	0.86	0.85	-0.01
1,300	580	RAIL. MILIT. ENG. HANCO	6	0.00	11	11850	7110	0.60	0.60	0.00
1,080	770	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	37	10020	10405	0.81	0.79	-0.02
980	430	ARAB ELECT. IND.	8	0.00	3	4300	1849	0.44	0.43	-0.01
990	630	MIDDLE EAST PHARM. (MEX)	8	0.00	3	2500	975	0.64	0.64	0.00
860	630	RAIL. PROD. SH.	8	0.00	1	4800	1302	0.64	0.63	-0.01
880	440	INDUS. RES.	32.0	0.00	10	8800	4676	0.52	0.52	0.00
1,460	770	INDUS. CHEMICAL	8	0.00	23	38250	23478	0.61	0.61	0.00
1,260	640	RAIL. PROD. SH.	8	0.00	1	1000	640	0.65	0.64	-0.01
1,100	430	M.I. EAST COMPLEX	8.3	0.00	13	6255	4420	0.72	0.71	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 120	CHANGE: 124377	79805					

* New 12 months low
 * Listed during the past 12 months
 * P/E ratio 14 100 or more
 * Negative P/E
 * Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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Major Currencies & Cross Rates					Prices as at 31/08/96 19:06				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLS	FRF
US Dollar		1.4810	0.6404	1.2015	108.85	1.3680	1511.43	1.6610	5.0705
DE Mark	0.6752		0.4320	0.5112	73.49	0.9234	1020.20	1.1215	3.4230
GB Sterling	1.5615	1.5615		1.6709	169.90	2.1361	2360.10	2.5937	7.9176
CH Franc	0.8323	1.2517	0.5924		90.57	1.1381	1257.43	138.21	4.2184
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3800	0.5877	1.1033		1.2562	13.88	152.53	4.6561
CA Dollar	0.7310	1.0810	0.4878	0.8760	1.26		1103.27	1.2127	3.6988
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9793	0.4232	0.0795	1380.83	0.9046		10.88	3.3529
NL Guilder	0.6020	0.9114	0.3852	0.7235	85.49	0.8234	909.68		3.0518
FR Franc	0.1872	0.2921	0.1262	0.23636	21.45	0.2698	32.75	32.7500	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	21.50	21.50
WTI	22.20	22.15
Bony	21.50	21.50
Dubai	18.28	18.94
UL Gas	211.00	211.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.3950	0.17078	0.3205	29.0368
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4037	0.17438	0.32727	28.6507
KW Dinar	3.3450	4.9554	2.14225	4.02061	364.299
BR Dinar	0.3770	3.82927	1.69886	3.16878	286.85
CY Pound	2.173	3.2182	1.3907	2.6109	236.531

Sampras advances to 3rd round as Sabatini stumbles at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AFP) — Pete Sampras kept his bid to win at least one grand slam in 1996 on course Friday as he outlasted Jiri Novak in a see-saw five-setter to reach the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships.

And two-time U.S. Open champion Stefan Edberg, playing the last grand slam of his career, kept on track

seven grand slam titles include three U.S. Open crowns, won the first set in 26 minutes. But it was not to be so easy. Novak needed only 23 minutes to win the second set.

Even serving for the match, Sampras double faulted to give Novak a break point before closing out the win. On match point Sampras had to race

loss to beat the Australian 6-7 (1/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Ivanisevic started the year as the hottest player on the ATP tour, but the U.S. hard court season has left him still seeking his first victory in the United States.

He said he came to this year's U.S. Open with a new goal, just to get to the second week.

"I want to reach the second week for the first time in my life," he said. "I want to be in the second week so badly. If I have to stay five hours on the court, I'll do it. That's what I decided, to fight, fight until next week. Next week, if I'm there, anything can happen."

Philippoussis fired 24 aces, and at least as many service winners, past Andrei Olhovskiy for a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 second-round victory.

Philippoussis' win kept him on course for a likely fourth-round match with Sampras.

Philippoussis extended Sampras to four sets in the third round here last year, then beat Sampras in the third round of the Australian Open in January then lost to him in the second round at Wimbledon.

Philippoussis said he would welcome another shot at Sampras, but couldn't afford to look past his third-round match against France's Cedric Pioline, who beat Roberto Carretero of Spain 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

"I'll just play it match by match," he said. "If I do end up meeting him, we'll



Monica Seles of the U.S. hits a forehand return to her opponent Dally Randriantefy of Madagascar during their third round match at the U.S. Open (Reuters photo)

see what happens."

Sampras faces a third-round match against Russian Alexander Volkov, who beat Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (10/8).

In women's third-round action, second-seeded Monica Seles crushed Dally Randriantefy of Madagascar 6-0, 6-3.

Randriantefy, ranked 104th in the world, didn't win a game until she held serve to trail 1-5 in the second. Then she broke Seles for 2-5 before the co-world

number one broke back to take the match.

Earlier, fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez defeated Czech veteran Helena Sukova 6-4, 6-3. Martinez will play Sweden's Asa Carlsson, who ousted 15th-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini 7-5, 3-6, 6-2. Eighth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport advanced with a 6-0, 6-3 victory over French teenager Anne-Gaëlle Sidot.



Barbara Rittner of Germany returns a shot from Linda Wild of the U.S. during third round action at the U.S. Open in New York (Reuters photo)

Moore scores twice as U.S. beat El Salvador 3-1

LOS ANGELES (R) — Forward Joe-Max Moore scored twice and Eric Wyoalda, the U.S. National team's leading scorer, added another goal as the United States beat El Salvador 3-1 in an international soccer friendly on Friday.

Moore scored his 13th and 14th international scores and Wyoalda his 25th.

Moore opened the scoring in the third minute after collecting a John Harkes through ball at the top of the penalty area.

He dribbled past one

defender before slamming a 12-metre shot past goalkeeper Alvaro Sanchez into the low left corner. He closed the scoring in the 88th minute, converting a penalty kick after Frankie Hejduk was dragged down in the penalty box.

El Salvador tied the match at 1-1 in the 59th minute when Luis Lazo ran onto a bouncing ball in the left side of the penalty box and bent a hard shot around U.S. goalkeeper Brad Friedel into the upper right corner.

Wyoalda tallied the game-

winner just two minutes later. Cobi Jones's cross from the right side was flicked on by Brian McBride and Wyoalda's sliding volley put the Americans ahead to stay.

The United States will open the first round of World Cup qualifying on November 3 in Washington, D.C., against Guatemala. The Americans will play six games in seven weeks in the first round, home and away against Guatemala, Trinidad Tobago and Costa Rica.

City call for fans' patience after Graham snub

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester City have called for patience from their fans as they search for the ideal manager to fill the hot-seat after George Graham's shock decision to turn down the post.

City are still fuming after being snubbed by Graham in their quest to find a replacement for Alan Ball.

And many feel the former Arsenal manager used the Manchester club as a way of putting himself back in the shop window after his 12-month ban for accepting illegal payments from transfers.

But the first division club said Friday they will not be panicked into bringing in a new manager even if it means the post remaining vacant for some time.

"We were shocked by George Graham's decision because the package offered was very attractive," said City chief executive Colin Barlow. "But that's history now and we've got to look elsewhere."

"It is important that we find a manager as soon as possible, but we won't be rushed. It is very important that we get the right man. It's crucial."

"Getting out of this division is our pri-

ority so finding the man who can do it means we have got to take our time."

The blues' chief still finds it hard to accept that Graham rejected their offer after going on national radio to announce his interest in the job.

It seems the 51-year-old Scot has now gambled on eventually landing a job with a top Premiership club.

And Barlow hinted that City bosses felt the same when he said: "We don't know what George's agenda was, do we?"

Graham has now been struck from a short-list that is believed to include former republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton and the again-available Kenny Dalglish and Bruce Rioch, dismissed by Arsenal at the beginning of the season.

Swindon boss Steve McMahon, Crystal Palace's Dave Bassett and former north- Irish Irish playmaker Danny Wilson of Barnsley are also names being mentioned by local sources.

Andretti takes Vancouver Indy car pole

VANCOUVER (R) — Michael Andretti bounced back from a painful injury to capture the provisional pole for the Molsoo Indy Vancouver Grand Prix on Friday.

Andretti, who suffered a moderate shoulder and back injury in an open test session at Laguna Seca raceway in California Tuesday, broke the track record with a lap of 54.928 seconds around the 10-turn, 1.703 mile (2.741 km) track at the Concord Pacific place street circuit in a Lola Ford Cosworth.

"It feels better by the hour," said Andretti, a two-

time winner (1991-1992) and three-time polesitter here (1990-1992) whose last pole was at the 1995 Long Beach street circuit.

"It's nice to be here (on the pole) today," he said, noting that final qualifying is on Saturday, "but I want to be here tomorrow."

Bryan Herta was second fastest in the session with a time of 54.930 seconds as seven drivers eclipsed the record of 55.226 seconds set here last year by Jacques Villeneuve, who is currently on the Formula One circuit.

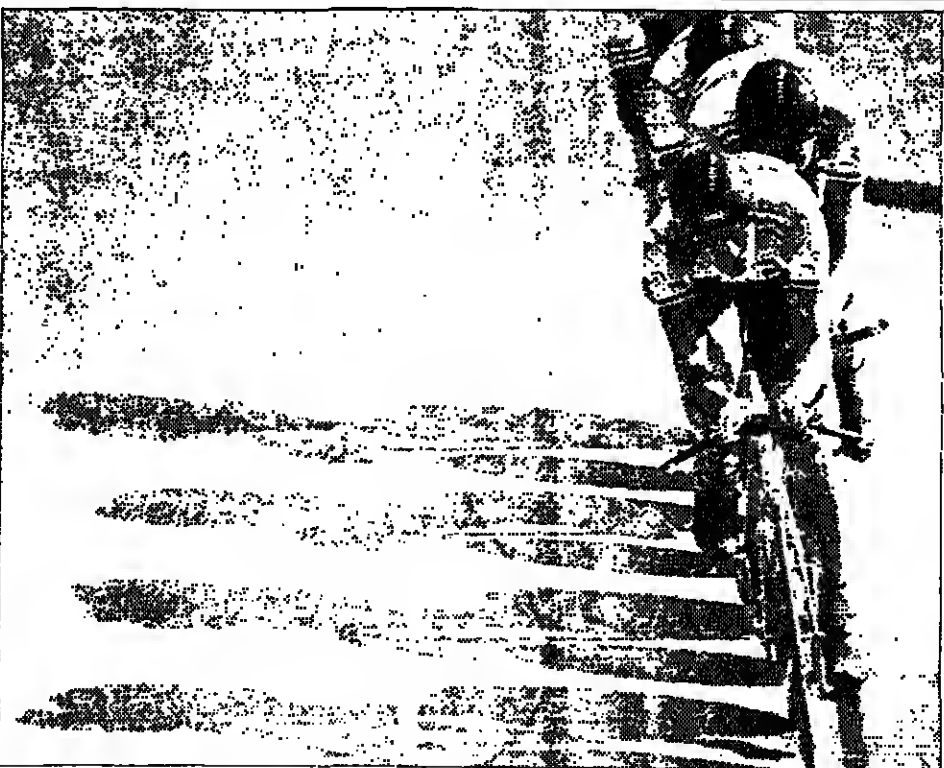
As the IndyCar series title chase winds down to the final two races, four-time

Vancouver winner Al Unser Jr. 23 points behind points series leader Jimmy Vasser, had a strong performance with a third fastest time of 55.004 seconds in a Penske Mercedes-Benz.

Unser, a two-time series champion, is winless since last year's event here. Besides Andretti, Unser is the only winner in this event's previous six years.

Vasser, suffering from a bad chassis vibration, was 17th in qualifying Friday.

Final qualifying for Sunday's race will take place on Saturday.



Late afternoon light shining in through the ceiling of the Manchester Velodrome casts long shadows on the French Pursuit team during their quarter-final heat at the World Track Cycling Championships (Reuters photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Standard Liege and players punished

NYON, Switzerland (AFP) — Belgian first division club Standard Liege and three of their players were given heavy sanctions Friday after a series of outbursts late in the team's Intertoto Cup match against Karlsruhe of Germany last week. Roberto Biscotti was suspended for six matches, captain Guy Hellers was outed for seven matches and Didier Ernst was suspended for four matches. Karlsruhe won the game after scoring two late goals. All three Belgian players were dismissed from the field in the dying minutes. The Standard Liege club was fined 25,000 Swiss francs (around \$20,000) for unsporting conduct on the field and on the substitutes' bench.

Romero joins Cagliari

CAGLIARI, Italy (AFP) — Uruguayan striker Luis Romero signed with Italian first division football club Cagliari on Friday, joining his compatriots Dario Silva and Fabian O'Neill. Romero, 28, scored 18 goals in 28 matches last season for leading Uruguayan club Penarol.

Grampus Eight victorious

TOKYO (AFP) — Nagoya Grampus Eight shrugged off the imminent departure of French Coach Arsene Wenger for English club Arsenal by beating Shimizu S-Pulse 2-1 Saturday to maintain their challenge for the J-League title. Two-time champions Verdy Kawasaki staged a come-from-behind victory to win 3-2 and push front-runners Yokohama Flügels down to sixth place. Kashima Antlers, 1-0 winners against Gamba Osaka, lead the table with 38 points, followed by Urawa Red Diamonds and Jubilo Iwata on 37 points, and Kashima Reysol, Grampus Eight and Flügels with 36. All of the top teams have 12 wins against five defeats.

Women's pursuit world record smashed 3 times

MANCHESTER (R) — The women's 3,000 metres world record was broken three times in pursuit qualifying at the world track cycling championships on Saturday.

Olympic champion Antonella Bellutti of Italy finally reduced the mark to three minutes 31.526 seconds.

Earlier, Lucy Tyler-Sharman of Australia and Marion Clignet of France had also bettered the old record of 3:31.924 set by Bellutti in Cali, Colombia in April.

Tyler-Sharman clocked 3:31.830 and 10 minutes later Clignet improved the time to 3:31.674.

Clignet had an even briefer reign as world

record-holder for Bellutti was next on the track. She had a slower start than Clignet, but finished strongly to reach the quarter-finals to be held later on Saturday as the fastest qualifier.

Bellutti, a former athlete who switched to cycling only two years ago, is bidding for her first world title after taking the silver medal at Bogota, Colombia, last year.

Five world records have now been set during the first four days of racing on the 250-metre indoor track.

Britain's Chris Boardman had two record-breaking rides in the men's 4,000 metres individual pursuit.

T O D A Y A T	CINEMA TEL: 634144	CINEMA TEL: 699238	CINEMA TEL: 677420	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD		
	JADE	The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki....in Naser 56 (Arabic)	CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanesha Williamsin ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Ahmad Zaki....in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45	Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m	PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00			

Gonzalez homers twice as Rangers beat Indians

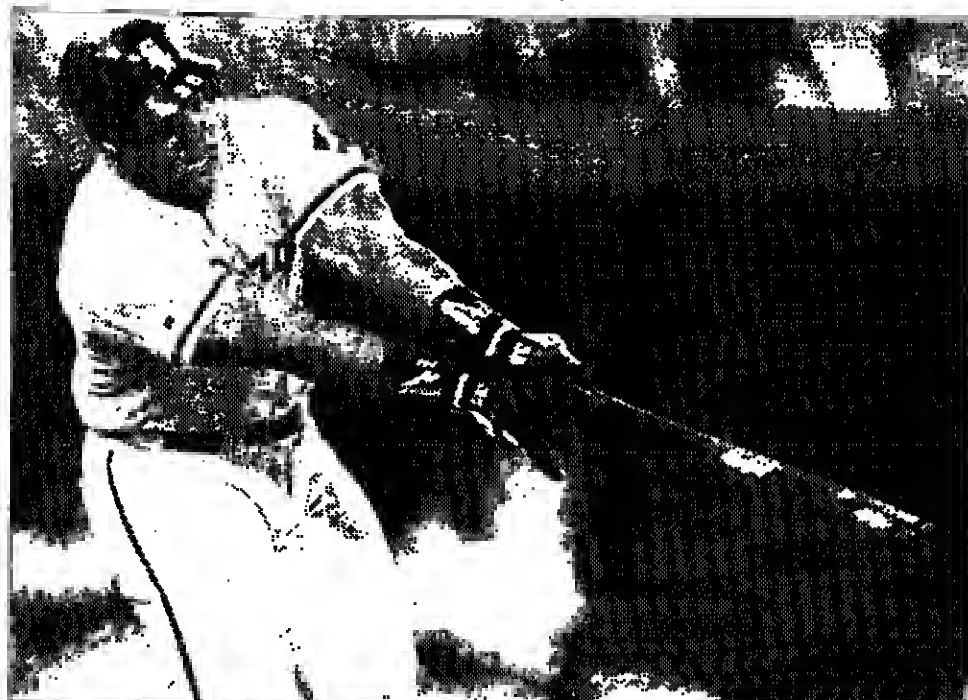
ARLINGTON (R) — Juan Gonzalez homered twice and Ivan Rodriguez added a two-run shot as the Texas Rangers defeated the Cleveland Indians 5-3 in a matchup of division leaders Friday.

Rodriguez's 18th homer, off Chad Ogea (7-5) in the first, gave Texas a 2-0 lead. One out later, Gonzalez smacked his 40th homer, extending his hitting streak to 20 games.

Gonzalez, who hit in 21 straight games earlier this season, joined Mickey Rivers as the only players in Texas history with two 20-game streaks in the same year.

Gonzalez hit his second homer in the third for his fifth multi-homer game of the season. Gonzalez has three 40-homer seasons and his 121 RBI broke Ruben Sierra's team record of 119 set in 1989.

The Indians had their four-game winning streak stopped.



Chicago White Sox Frank Thomas loses his grip on the bat but succeeds in hitting the ball out of the park for a two run homer in the third inning against the Toronto Blue Jays (Reuters photo)

"It's not something I'm going to try to explain," said Texas manager Johnny Oates about his team winning seven of the 10 meetings from Cleveland this season.

"We've got two more regular season games against them and we might get lucky enough or unlucky enough to play them in the post-season."

Roger Pavlik (15-7) gave up three runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings and became the fourth 15-game winner in the American League. Jeff Russell pitched two perfect innings for his third save.

Brian Giles and Jim Thome homered for Cleveland.

Cleveland's lead over the White Sox in the American League Central dropped to nine games. Texas's lead over Seattle in the west increased to six.

At California, Tino Martinez's two-run homer keyed a three-run first and Andy Pettitte became the league's first 19-game winner as the New York Yankees beat the Angels 6-2.

New York snapped a season-high five-game losing streak and also got homers from Mariano Duncan, Darryl Strawberry and Jim Leyritz.

Pettitte (19-7) allowed two runs and eight hits over eight innings with a walk and seven strikeouts. He improved to 12-2 following Yankees' losses. Mariano Rivera pitched a scoreless ninth, striking out two.

Ex-Yankee Randy Velarde hit his 11th homer, his most at any professional level.

In Seattle, Pete Incaviglia's grand slam with one out in the sixth snapped a tie and lifted the Baltimore Orioles past the Seattle Mariners, 5-2.

It was Incaviglia's sixth grand slam and 200th homer of his career.

Baltimore's Eddie Murray cracked his 20th homer of the season and 499th of his career.

Jay Buhner hit his 38th homer and Edgar Martinez his 23rd for Seattle. The Orioles remained tied with the White Sox for the American League wild card with the Mariners a game back.

In Toronto, Kevin Tapani (12-8) allowed two runs and six hits over 7 1/3 innings and Frank Thomas hit his 29th homer and drove in three runs as the Chicago White Sox cruised to an 11-2 victory over the Blue Jays.

Thomas, Harold Baines and Robin Ventura each collected three hits. Baines homered and scored three runs. Danny Tartabull added two hits and three RBI as all Chicago starters got at least one hit.

In Oakland, Dave Telgheder scattered seven hits over eight innings and Mark McGwire hit his Major League leading 45th homer and drove in three runs as the Athletics blanked the Boston Red Sox 7-0.

Telgheder (2-5) snapped a personal three-game losing streak. Buddy Groom pitched a perfect ninth inning.

McGwire singled home a run to spark a three-run sixth and capped the scoring with a two-run homer in the seventh.

The loss was Boston's seventh in its last 29 games.

In Milwaukee, Marc Newfield homered off Jose Parra (5-4) leading off the bottom of the 12th as the Brewers rallied for a 5-4 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Milwaukee has won 10 of its last 15.

Bob Wickman (6-1) pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings for the win, his second for the Brewers.

Matt Lawton hit a three-run homer off closer Mike Feters with one out in the ninth to give Minnesota a 4-2 lead.

But Milwaukee tied it up in the bottom of the ninth on pinch-hitter Dave Nilsson's two-run double.

In Philadelphia, Delino Deshields' triple in the top of the 12th off Jeff Parrett (2-3) scored Chad Curtis and lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-6 victory over the Phillies.

Los Angeles won for the seventh time in eight games.

Darren Dreifort (1-1) picked up the win after allowing a hit and a walk over 2 1/3 scoreless innings. Todd Worrell worked the 12th to earn his league-leading 37th save.

The Phillies have dropped five of their last six overall, and nine of 11 at home.

Billy Ashley belted a three-run homer for Los Angeles.

In Chicago, the Braves and Cubs split a doubleheader.

In the first game, Ryeo Sandberg snapped an eighth-inning tie with an infield single and Kevin Foster (6-2) outduelled Atlanta's Tom Glavine (13-8) for his third straight win, 3-2.

Foster, a 333 hitter, helped his own cause in the second with a two-run single.

The Braves took the second game when Chipper Jones singled home the tying run in the top of the ninth and Andruw Jones took advantage of a poor throw to score the go-ahead run on a sacrifice fly for a 6-5 victory.

Cubs shortstop Jose Hernandez committed three of Chicago's four errors.

Mike Mordecai singled, doubled and homered for Atlanta, which has won 14 of its last 19 games and has the best record in the majors, 84-50.

and inning through the seventh.

Mike Oquist allowed one Montreal hit in the ninth.

Montreal lost for the ninth time in 14 games.

In New York, Marvin Benard's two-run homer snapped a tie and Shawn Estes came out away from his first complete game as the San Francisco Giants beat the Mets 6-4.

Benard, hitting .467 (14-for-30) against the Mets this season, hit his first pitch from Pete Harnisch (8-10) in the seventh over the right-field fence to put the Giants up 4-2.

The loss was the Mets' eighth straight, their longest slide since September 1993, and dropped them to 0-4 under new manager Bobby Valentine.

In St. Louis, Tom Pagnozzi had three hits and three RBI and Alan Boes scattered six hits over six-plus innings as the Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies 7-4.

Ray Lankford went 4-for-5 with a pair of doubles for the Cardinals, who won for just the third time in 11 games.

Eric Anthony hit a pair of solo homers for the Rockies.

In Pittsburgh, Sean Berry tied a career high with six RBI and drove in his first Major League shutout as the Houston Astros routed the Pirates 10-0.

Fredericks gets revenge over Michael Johnson

BERLIN (AFP) — Frankie Fredericks of Namibia gained revenge over dual Olympic champion Michael Johnson on Friday night, beating the American in the 200 metres at the IAAF Grand Prix meeting here — the fourth of the golden meetings.

Fredericks, second behind Johnson in Atlanta, clocked 19.97 seconds to Johnson's 20.02 to assure himself of a share of 20 kilograms of gold promised to athletes who win at all four golden meetings — Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin.

Before the Olympics, in Oslo in early July, Fredericks handed Johnson his first defeat in any race for two years.

Johnson, who smashed the 200 metres world record with an amazing time of 19.32 seconds in Atlanta, missed the Zurich meeting earlier this month because of injury but cruised to an easy victory over 400 metres in Brussels last week.

"I ran fast and was concentrated. It isn't fun to

be beaten by Michael every time," said Fredericks. "Atlanta is now in the past and I am curious what the future is going to bring."

Olympic champion Lars Riedel of Germany also secured a share of the booty when he won the discus with 70.60m to finish well clear of American Anthony Washington (68.44).

Three other men and one woman were in the running for a share of the gold bars — Britain's Jonathan Edwards (triple jump), Denmark's Wilson Kipketer (800), American derrick adkins (400 hurdles) and Bulgarian high jumper Stefka Kostadinova.

Olympic champion

Adkins lost his chance for a share of the money when he finished third behind compatriot Torrance Zellner and Zambia's Samuel Matete, the silver medallist in Atlanta.

Zellner stormed home to win in 48.23 seconds, with Matete second in 48.34. Adkins slowed up at the line to finish third in 48.62.

Double Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova, meanwhile, won the 1,500 metres in the slow time of 4:06.87, cruising home ahead of French runner Patricia Djate (4:08.22).

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Marlins beat Reds

Major League era leader Kevin Brown threw an eight-hitter and Devon White's RBI double snapped a fifth-inning tie as the Florida Marlins beat the Cincinnati Reds 3-1 for their seventh straight win Friday.

Brown (14-10) tied Todd Stottlemyre of the Cardinals for the National League lead with his fifth complete game

In Philadelphia, Delino Deshields' triple in the top of the 12th off Jeff Parrett (2-3) scored Chad Curtis and lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-6 victory over the Phillies.

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Cubs shortstop Jose Hernandez committed three of Chicago's four errors.

Mike Mordecai singled, doubled and homered for Atlanta, which has won 14 of its last 19 games and has the best record in the majors, 84-50.

In Montreal, Scott Sanders allowed one hit over eight innings and Wally Joyner hit a two-run single to a four-run third as the San Diego Padres blanked the Expos 6-0 for their sixth straight win.

Sanders (8-4) struck out 10 and walked three to win his fourth straight. He allowed a leadoff double to David Segui in the second, and won for the seventh time in eight decisions.

The right-hander retired 14 batters in a row from the sec-

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COMEDY Nights

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House panel calls for collective Arab action to counter Israeli plans

By Tareq Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab and International Committee of the Lower House of Parliament on Saturday expressed deep concern over Israel's actions in the occupied Arab territories and called for concerted Arab efforts to confront Israel's plans to expand Jewish settlements in the territories.

Committee Chairman Fawzi Toumeih said in a statement to the Jordan Times that the Israeli government should understand the Arab Nation's view that "there can be no peace while the settlement programmes continue and no stability without the return of Arab Jerusalem to its legitimate owners."

Referring to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's visit to Ramallah on Thursday where he met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to voice Jordan's backing for the Palestinian leadership's quest to pursue the peace process, Dr.

Toumeih said that the Kingdom "will continue to support the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their national rights and establish their state on their national soil."

The practices of the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "are clearly based on the concept of ensuring security for the Jewish state at the expense of the Arabs and the perpetuation of occupation of Palestinian lands to guarantee this objective," said Dr. Toumeih.

"We totally reject the Israeli idea of establishing settlements to ensure security which the Netanyahu government is pursuing under different pretexts in flagrant violation of the agreements concluded by the former Israeli government and the Palestinian leadership," Dr. Toumeih said.

Noting that the Israeli government was concentrating most of the settlements in and around Jerusalem, Dr. Toumeih said Israel

was aiming at Judaizing Jerusalem and consolidating its hold on the Holy City.

Demanding that the co-sponsors of the peace process, the European Union and other nations intervene to save the peace process, Dr. Toumeih said: "There is urgent need for pressure to be exercised on the Jewish state to force it to comply with the requirements of peace and to make way for the Palestinians to exercise their national rights in their homeland."

He also demanded that the Arab states link normalisation of relations with Israel to the Jewish state's respect for international law, which calls for a halt to settlements and an end to the practice of Judaizing Arab Jerusalem.

He called for the convening of an emergency Arab summit meeting so that the Arab heads of state "can adopt a unified stand vis-à-vis Israel's defiance and halt its illegal practices in the Arab territories."



BOSNIAN ELECTIONS: Fazlija Abdic (left), the wife of rebel Bosnian Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, waits in line to cast her vote at the Gasinci refugee camp near Djakovo, Croatia, on Saturday. Refugees and other Bosnian citizens in Croatia, watched by 260 international monitors, began two days of voting on Saturday in Bosnia's first postwar elections. The in-country election day for Bosnia is Sept. 14 (Reuters photo)

Levy to tour EU capitals

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will tour four European capitals next week to defend his government's peace policies which have been under attack in the European Union (EU), a senior foreign ministry official said Saturday. The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said Mr. Levy would visit Britain, Ireland, France and Germany.

He gave no specific dates beyond saying the tour would begin late next week, but the German Foreign Ministry confirmed late Friday that Mr. Levy would be in Bonn on September 9. It will be Mr. Levy's second foreign visit since being appointed in June, following talks scheduled for Sunday in Alexandria, Egypt, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Levy's European tour will follow strong criticism from several EU governments over Israel's policy of expanding Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories.

Britain, France and Germany all issued critical statements this week warning of the negative consequences settlement expansion would have on the peace process that has been stalled since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power at the head of a rightwing coalition government in June.

Hariri throws full weight into election campaign

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri seems to be watching from every street corner as he runs for a seat in parliament for the first time in elections.

Motorists can catch sight of his giant posters on all main streets and crossroads, ahead of polling in Beirut on Sunday.

Prime minister since 1992, Mr. Hariri announced his candidacy saying he wanted a popular mandate for his multi-billion dollar programme to reconstruct Lebanon after its 1975-1990 civil war.

Mr. Hariri, whose fortune is estimated at more than \$3 billion, even said that defeat at the ballot box would mean a rejection of his policies and force him to resign. So he has mobilised all means to assert a solid victory and show himself as the driving force behind the rebuilding of Beirut, particularly its war-devastated downtown by Solidere, a \$1.82 billion concern.

His posters, amid a deluge of smaller pictures of other candidates also taking part in the elections, are most often erected on buildings still under construction.

In an American-style campaign, they show him against a background of the capital's main reconstruction projects, including

ports, airports, bridges and highways.

Mr. Hariri's campaign also capitalises on reminding the people of the more than 30,000 students he has sponsored through the Hariri Foundation to study at universities in Lebanon and abroad since 1978.

"With education, we build Lebanon," said a gigantic poster portraying Mr. Hariri in front of thousands of students, wearing black caps and gowns with blue hoods at a university graduation ceremony, dubbed the "Hariri generations."

For other candidates, teams of volunteers have plastered posters to walls, hand-posters, trees, traffic signs, the fences of public gardens, windows of shops, other buildings and every other space they could find.

Mr. Hariri has — literally — remained above the crowd.

At his air-conditioned campaign headquarters, clean-shaven and smartly-dressed young men, referred to as the "Hariri boys," are well-versed in the art of public relations.

In contrast, former Prime Minister Salim Hoss, Mr. Hariri's main rival, has his offices located in a badly-ventilated underground basement.

The headquarters of a harsh critic of Mr. Hariri, Member of Parliament Najah Wakim, only has the organisational help of the Communist Party which has a representative on his list.

"We do not have computers or exact figures on the number of people helping us. It's spontaneous popular support," said Amin Kammourieh, a journalist at Al Nahar newspaper running for a Sunni Muslim seat on Mr. Wakim's list.

Mr. Wakim, who has accused Mr. Hariri of bribery and corruption, appears to enjoy such support. In mainly Christian east Beirut, hundreds of people throw rice and confetti from balconies as young men lifted his car at a rally.

"Although Mr. Hariri wants to look like he's dominating the scene, the focal word is with the people and that will be the true test for him and his reconstruction programme," said one analyst.

The Beirut elections are the third of Lebanon's legislative polls.

Voting has already taken place in Mount Lebanon and the north, while further rounds are scheduled on Sept. 8 in South Lebanon and Sept. 15 in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon.

Turkish MP under fire for PKK contacts

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's mainstream parties have blasted an Islamist deputy for meeting with Kurdish rebels in a failed bid to secure the release of eight Turkish soldiers, with some calling for his expulsion from parliament.

Fethullah Erbas, a deputy from Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party, met in northern Iraq this week with leaders from the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) holding the troops captive.

However, the efforts by Mr. Erbas, accompanied by officials from two Turkish human rights groups, failed as the local PKK authorities announced Thursday that they would not free the soldiers. An empty-handed and embarrassed Erbas returned to Turkey Friday.

Turkey's successive governments have ruled out talks with the PKK, which has been waging a separatist war in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 22,000 people have been killed in fighting since then. Television footage showing Mr. Erbas kissing the PKK leaders and attending a "military ceremony" in a rebel camp 30 kilometres south of the Turkish border caused a public uproar in Turkey.

"Erbas, who is a member of the Turkish parliament, has illegally held talks with separatist terrorists. He should be punished for that," former Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, also leader of the conservative main opposition Motherland Party, told reporters late Friday. "Erbas has become a tool for PKK propaganda. This is unacceptable," said Defence Minister Turhan Tanay, a leading official from the conservative True Path Party of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller who is now foreign minister and Mr. Erbakan's coalition partner.

"Efforts by a member of parliament to try to mediate with the terrorists have hurt the Turkish nation. This person's membership should be revoked," Parliament Speaker Mustafa Kudemli said.

"This person, who has betrayed the Turkish nation, should be expelled from parliament and be tried," said Alparslan Turkes, leader of the extreme right-wing Nationalist Movement Party. Dismissing his critics, Mr. Erbas said he only wanted the soldiers' release. "Such a result could also be a first step toward an end to the spilling of blood," Mr. Erbas told the Istanbul-based liberal daily Hurriyet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince meets outgoing ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met on Saturday with Canadian Ambassador to the Kingdom Michel de Salaberry, Algerian Ambassador Hashemi Qaddouri and Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastamuljani separately on the occasion of the end of their tour of duty. Discussion during the meetings focused on means to boost relations between Jordan and the respective countries.

Aziz receives Russian official

BAGHDAD (RI) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Saturday reviewed with Russia's deputy foreign minister Bagdad's relations with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming it, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. INA said Mr. Aziz also told Viktor Posuvalyuk that Russian firms were welcome to supply Iraq with humanitarian goods in line with a partial oil sales deal with the United Nations. INA said Mr. Aziz reiterated that Iraq had come clean on the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms on weapons and called on the Security Council members to remove the economic embargo. Russia, supported by France and China, all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, is for a gradual easing of international sanctions on Iraq. "He (Aziz) stressed that it is the Security Council's responsibility not to allow any attempt to touch on Iraq's sovereignty, its dignity and national security," INA said.

Fire destroys restaurant in Bahraini village

MANAMA (RI) — A fire has completely gutted a Turkish-operated restaurant in a Bahraini village, residents said. They said a fire broke out at Shul'ala restaurant in the early hours on Saturday in Al Daih village, five kilometres west of the capital Manama. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire or if there were any casualties. Government officials had no immediate comment.

Crusaders' counterfeit coins unearthed

CAIRO (AP) — Excavators have unearthed priceless gold coins apparently counterfeited by Crusaders in southern Egypt about 900 years ago, Egyptian archaeologists said Saturday. The eight coins were discovered recently in the village of Tolia in the southern province of Minya — a region rich in antiquities — after villagers there stumbled upon three similar coins last year, said Abdul Hafim Nouredin, head of the Supreme Council for Antiquities. The coins are almost perfect counterfeits of the currency used during the Fatimid Dynasty, which ruled medieval Egypt from 969 to 1171 and founded the capital Cairo. Mr. Nouredin said, The Crusaders invaded the Middle East in 1096, arriving in Egypt in 1117. That dates the coins to the 12th century, he said. The coins faces are bordered with two rows of the block-like Arabic that was so "complex and sophisticated that the falseness could not be detected easily," a statement from the council said. Experts found imperfections proving they were counterfeited, said Abdullah Attar, a spokesman for the council. But he refused to elaborate.

Egypt impounds tankers over oil spill

CAIRO (RI) — Egyptian authorities have impounded two oil tankers suspected of spilling oil near a port in the Red Sea, an official in the Suez Canal authority said on Saturday. The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) is investigating a slick suspected to have been caused by either a Greek or an Egyptian tanker or both at Ras Adabiya port, 15 kilometres south of Suez town, he said. The Nabila III, which is owned by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, was carrying 23,000 tonnes of oil, while the Greek-registered World Kudos was carrying 33,000 tonnes. The captains have been questioned and released. Last April Egyptian officials demanded \$23.5 million in compensation from the Norwegian company Kvamco for damage caused to 2,000 square metres of Red Sea coral reef by one of its luxury cruise liners.

Rafsanjani's supporters step up campaign to retain him on top

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian moderates have intensified their demand for a constitutional change to allow President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to run for a third term despite fierce opposition from the right.

"Given Mr. Rafsanjani's precious personality and experience, the interests of the country demand that his tenure be extended for a third term and put an end to all uncertainties," said Abdollah Nuri, a member of parliament (MP) who leads a coalition of moderates and leftists in Iran.

The president's second term expires next July, and under the constitution he is not allowed to seek a new mandate.

Mr. Nuri, quoted by Eitelaat newspaper, called for a referendum on changing the constitution.

"We should not let our hands be tied by legal considerations and deprive our country and regime of such a courageous statesman," he said.

"We are not sure the person who replaces Mr. Rafsanjani will possess the same administrative abilities, authority and talent. Why give up a top-grade politician for a low-grade one?"

The moderates' rivals on the right have strongly resisted the idea of changing the constitution to allow Mr. Rafsanjani a third term and have already primed their leader, parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, for the post.

The Association of Militant Clergy, a group of influential clerical establishment, and satellite groups "have reached the conclusion that Nurey Nuri is the most qualified person for the presidential post," conservative MP Mohammad-Reza Bahonar said Wednesday.

Moneza Nabavi, a hardline conservative MP, Thursday criticised those seeking a new mandate for Mr. Rafsanjani, and said he was opposed to changing the constitution to allow him a third term.

"Isn't there anyone else in this country who deserves the post?"

We should not change the law on every little pretext," Mr. Nabavi was quoted by the conservative Rousai newspaper as saying.

The two factions of the Iranian regime were locked in a fierce struggle for seats during the March and April parliamentary elections, which was viewed as a crucial step toward grabbing the presidential post.

The conservatives swept most of the seats and the leadership of the parliament, but the moderate-left-wing coalition put up a stiff fight.

The hardline conservatives launched an offensive against moderate politicians during the election, accusing them of seeking to compromise Islamic revolutionary principles.

Mr. Rafsanjani and his moderate supporters, who appeared to be the main losers in the election, have made a comeback in recent weeks, and the president is gaining extensive news media coverage.

Up until last month politicians on both sides were suggesting that Mr. Rafsanjani return to the parliament, where he was a speaker for much of the 1980s.

The idea of keeping him in power resurfaced two weeks ago when Ayatollah Talehi, a strong backer of the president, said at Friday prayers in the central city of Esfahan he hoped "a way could be found to have Mr. Rafsanjani keep the divine post."

Iranian paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the only figure in Iran empowered to change the law, has adopted a vague stand on the issue but has not ruled out a constitutional revision.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who formerly has sided with the right, said in a meeting with Mr. Rafsanjani and his ministers on Thursday, "based on ordinary calculations this is the last year of the present government, but each one of you may continue your work for years to come."

Hundreds flee S.Somalia fearing Ethiopians

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Hundreds of people in central Somali region of Galduduud have fled their homes following rumours that Ethiopian troops, pursuing militants, were planning to invade the area, a spokesman for an Islamic group claimed Saturday.

Sheikh Mukhtar Hamud, spokesman for the Al Itihad Al Islami, told reporters that Ethiopian troops were crossing the border and "terrorising" Somali civilians.

Ethiopia accuses Al Itihad of carrying out terrorist activities along the Ethiopia-Somalia border and in other areas of Ethiopia. Earlier this month,

Ethiopian troops attacked Al Itihad bases in south-west Somalia, where the movement is based. Al Itihad seeks independence for the Ethiopian province of Ogaden, bordering Somalia and Kenya, which is populated mainly by ethnic Somalis, and has claimed responsibility for bomb blasts in Ethiopian hotels and the attempted assassination of a government minister in July.

COLUMN

New record set for sit-ups

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A California gym owner set a new world record Friday by doing 100,687 sit-ups in a 24-hour period. "Oooh, I feel tired," Bill Evans told reporters after qualifying for the Guinness Book of Records at his Dinosaur Athletic Club of El Cajon. Mr. Evans broke the record set in 1992 by Lou Scripa of 70,175 sit-ups, according to Evans associate Stacey Disko.

Supermodel narrates \$1,000 trauma

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Supermodel Linda Evangelista took a walk down memory lane on a visit to Singapore and narrated what she called the most traumatic experience of her rise to the top of her career. Her parents had given her a year to succeed as a model, recalled the 31-year-old Canadian, who was here as a celebrity judge at a modelling contest. "I didn't make any money for the first 11 months. In December, I made \$1,000," afternoon tabloid The New Paper quoted Evangelista as saying. She put the money in a bag which was snatched when she was asleep on a plane. Now a multi-millionaire, Evangelista described the incident as the "most traumatic experience of my early modelling career."

Bejart's agent to sue organisers of Kirov performances

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese agent for French choreographer Maurice Bejart plans to sue organisers of performances by the Russian Kirov Ballet Company which allegedly violated copyright laws, a spokesman said Tuesday. The spokesman for the Japan Performing Arts Foundation said the country's first copyright suit involving ballet would be filed in the Tokyo District Court this month, against two companies, Koransha and concert agency Musicaa. Despite repeated warnings, the companies staged performances of Bejart's Ballet Adagio in Tokyo in July last year and again this month featuring Kirov Ballet dancer Farukh Ruzimatov, the spokesman said. Bejart has entrusted the foundation to deal with copyright violations in Japan, he added.

Indonesia freezes disco permits

JAKARTA (RI) — Indonesia has stopped issuing new discotheque licences after the recent seizure of drugs, including Ecstasy, at entertainment spots in its major cities, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported. Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs and Security Susilo Sudarman said officials wanted to determine if discotheque owners are complying with the laws. "Until the evaluation is completed, we will not decide anything on permits for new discotheques," Mr. Sudarman told reporters Thursday. He said Interior Minister Yogie Memet had been asked to order regional administrations to implement the freeze for an indefinite period across the world's largest Muslim nation of almost 200 million people. "The trafficking of Ecstasy pills has reached a critical level. It is high time we intensified the combat against the drug," Mr. Sudarman said. Jakarta city officials have issued a similar freeze and temporarily closed several entertainment spots after drug raids.